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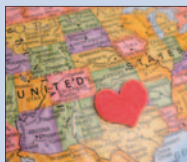
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Basketball hotbed rests in heartland

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— THE TRIAL OF JEFFREY SINCLAIR —

## NO JAIL FOR GENERAL

Sexual misconduct case ends with reprimand, fine

By JENNIFER HLAD  
Stars and Stripes

**A**n Army general who once faced life in prison for sexual misconduct with a subordinate received a fine and a reprimand, a verdict that surprised military justice watchers and left unanswered many questions about the role of command influence in criminal cases.

One of the most high-profile sexual misconduct cases in years ended Thursday when a military judge at Fort Bragg, N.C., gave Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair a formal reprimand and ordered him to forfeit \$5,000 per month in pay for four months. Sinclair was allowed to remain in the military, kept his pension and avoided jail time under a plea deal that dropped the most serious charges of sexual assault, "open and notorious" sex and threatening to kill the accuser and her family.

Instead, Sinclair pleaded guilty to mistreating a female captain with whom he maintained a three-year relationship and misusing a government credit card to pursue the affair, among other lesser charges.

Sinclair was not given the officer's equivalent of a dishonorable discharge, a dismissal.

SEE SINCLAIR ON PAGE 4



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair  
TED RICHARDSON/AP

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair was allowed to remain in the military, kept his pension and avoided jail time under a plea deal that dropped the most serious charges.**

## Midshipman acquitted in academy sex assault case

By PAMELA WOOD  
The Baltimore Sun

**WASHINGTON** — A former Navy football player was found not guilty of sexually assaulting a fellow midshipman at an off-campus party nearly two years ago.

A military judge, Marine Corps

Col. Daniel Daugherty, found Midshipman Joshua Tate not guilty Thursday morning at the conclusion of a court-martial at the Washington Navy Yard.

Tate was facing as much as 30 years in prison if he had been found guilty.

Tate also was charged with making false statements to investigators three times. Daugherty sent those charges back to Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Michael Miller for reconsideration. As commanding officer, Miller has the final say on whether

to prosecute under military law.

Daugherty said Wednesday that two other midshipmen accused of lying in connection with the case ultimately were not prosecuted in court and were punished administratively at the academy instead.

SEE ACADEMY ON PAGE 4

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's a scandal that commercially available, battlefield-proven technology is ready to go at a fraction of the billions of dollars the Pentagon is spending to build a similar analysis tool in-house."

Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., a Pentagon report that appears to favor a less expensive intelligence program over the Army's troubled Distributed Common Ground System

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## TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

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2. DOD announces Army general officers' moves in Europe
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4. Former Marine 'baked to death' in NYC jail cell
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## MIDEAST

# SIGAR: US may be paying 'ghost' Afghan policemen

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American taxpayers may be the victims of a 'ghost worker' scheme in Afghanistan, according to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, an independent watchdog group created by Congress.

"The U.S. may be unwittingly helping to pay the salaries of nonexistent members of the Afghan National Police," John Sopko, the head of SIGAR, wrote in a Feb. 19 letter to commanders of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, which manages the majority of donated funds intended for the Afghan National Security Forces.

Sopko believes that some Afghans may be lining their pockets by collecting the paychecks of Afghan policemen whose names appear on payrolls but aren't actually on the force. His concerns are based on conversations he had during a recent trip to Afghanistan, as well as discussions with European officials.

Concerns about "ghost workers" in Afghanistan are not new. A 2011 SIGAR report raised

questions about the U.N.'s management of the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan, which is used to pay ANP salaries. SIGAR auditors found that neither the Afghan Ministry of Interior nor the U.N. could verify payroll data. There was "limited assurance that only ANP personnel who worked received pay," SIGAR concluded at the time.

Since 2002, the international community has contributed \$3.2 billion to LOTFA, \$1.2 billion of which came from the U.S., according to SIGAR.

The European Union is withholding 100 million euros — half of its contribution to LOTFA — due to concerns about how that money is being used, including the possibility of payments to ghost workers and other forms of financial mismanagement, according to Sopko.

"We must do more to understand how U.S. funds are flowing through the Afghan banking system, particularly those used to pay ANP salaries," Sopko wrote. "We lack an adequate understanding and oversight of how U.S. funds flow from LOTFA through the Afghan banking system to their destination in the hands of legiti-



STEPHEN DECATUR/Courtesy of U.S. ARMY

Afghan National Police prepare to graduate from an academy in 2009 at the ANP headquarters in Herat, Afghanistan.

mate ANSF personnel."

SIGAR has initiated an audit to scrutinize the reliability of ANSF personnel data, and to look at how that data are used for both the Afghan National Army and ANP payrolls, according to Sopko.

In a March 7 memo to SIGAR, Maj. Gen. Kevin Wendel, the CSTC-A commander, said the command discovered "discrepancies" in personnel and payroll records, including 54,000 erroneous personnel identification numbers in the LOTFA database used by the United Nations Development Program to manage and account for ANP payroll on behalf of international donors.

Wendel told Sopko that the erroneous ID numbers "could have facilitated LOTFA unwittingly making payments to nonexistent members on the ANP payroll."

Wendel outlined steps that CSTC-A has taken to address the MOI's financial management problems, including standing up its own audit division and requesting a Department of Defense Inspector General assessment of how payroll funds are accounted for within the Afghan financial

system. CSTC-A also has threatened to withhold money from the MOI if they don't improve their financial management practices, although not until after the Afghan presidential election and the initial stages of the upcoming fighting season.

"If there is significant ghost payrolling or other mismanagement of these funds, it is not only a waste of money, but reliance on inaccurate ANP numbers could undermine U.S. transition planning as we continue to withdraw troops from Afghanistan," Sopko wrote.

The U.S. strategy calls for handing off responsibility for Afghanistan's security to Afghan security forces by the end of the year as American troops leave the country. If ANP personnel numbers appear higher than they actually are due to payroll fraud, it could lead to inaccurate and overly optimistic U.S. and NATO assessments of the ANSF's ability to fight off Taliban insurgents after most international forces leave the country.

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## Hearing delayed for soldier implicated in sex ring

By PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Article 32 hearing for an Army sergeant at Fort Hood in Texas who was tasked with helping prevent sexual assault but is suspected to have prostituted junior soldiers has been delayed.

According to a Wednesday news release from Fort Hood, a defense counsel requested a delay of the hearing for Sgt. 1st

Class Gregory McQueen. He was charged March 7 and faces 21 counts related to pandering, conspiracy, maltreatment of a subordinate, abusive sexual contact, adultery and detrimental conduct.

Another Fort Hood soldier was court-martialed in the case. The Associated Press reported that Master Sgt. Brad Grimes was convicted in December of conspiring to patronize a prostitute and solicitation to commit adul-

tery, and was reprimanded and demoted.

According to a report in the Killeen Daily Herald, a female private testified in Grimes' court-martial under a grant of immunity that she was having financial difficulties when McQueen discussed the possibility of her working as an escort for high-ranking noncommissioned officers, as well as for civilians, who were willing to pay to "hang out" and have sex with low-

ranking soldiers.

This case and others have increased pressure on the Pentagon to confront sexual misconduct in the military. Congress has debated remedies for months.

At the time of the suspected incidents, McQueen was a sexual assault prevention officer with III Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

The special court-martial convening authority approved the request for delay until June 3.

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# Afghan violence increasing ahead of elections

By JOSH SMITH  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Violence erupted in two major cities in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, heightening security fears nearly two weeks before national elections that the Taliban have vowed to disrupt.

Gunfire broke out late at night in a heavily fortified hotel in downtown Kabul, sending occupants fleeing for safety, and in Jalalabad a predawn raid left 10 policemen dead.

The gunfire in Kabul's luxury Serena Hotel was heard about 9 p.m., police officials said. An hour later the gunfire had stopped, and police denied reports of explosions. Police were on the scene but said they had no further details on what had happened.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told NBC News that the insurgent group was responsible for what it described as the attack on the hotel, but his claim was not confirmed by police.

An American inside the Serena at the time, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, told Stars and Stripes by phone during the attack that the hotel's armed guards herded occupants into a secure location after shots rang out, reportedly in the hotel's restaurant.

The hotel is a massively fortified structure in comparison with many of Kabul's private buildings, and it routinely hosts high-ranking foreign officials, diplomats, and journalists, especially now in the run-up to the election. Its parking lot is often crowded with United Nations vehicles, and it is generally considered one of the safest places in Kabul.

Its high profile, however, might have prompted a 2008 attack that left six people dead.

Earlier Thursday, insurgents stormed a police station and the provincial governor's office before dawn in the eastern city of Jalalabad. In addition to the 10 police officers, the seven attackers also died in the five-hour gun battle, which began with near simultaneous explosions at the police station and the governor's office and ended with street-by-street fighting, Nangarhar province police chief Farid Ahmed Sherzad told Stars and Stripes.

Three attackers blew themselves up during the fighting, while the other four were killed by the security forces, he said.

Concern about security is mounting in Afghanistan ahead of the April 5 elections, which will mark the first democratic transfer of power since the U.S. and its allies ousted the Taliban regime after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. The Taliban have vowed to disrupt the elections, calling them a "plot of the invaders" whose outcome has already been determined by foreign intelligence agencies.

Among the dead police officers were the station chief and the deputy commander of the rapid-reaction force that responded to the attack, Sherzad said. A student was also killed in the crossfire, and 14 officers were wounded.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on social media and in messages to news

outlets, saying they had targeted the police station before moving on to other targets.

At least 17 civilians died in a suicide bombing in Faryab province in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday. No one claimed responsibility for that attack, and the exact target of the blast was unclear.

Neither the Faryab nor Jalalabad attacks were explicitly aimed

at election-related targets, but Ahmad Majidiyar, a senior research associate at the American Enterprise Institute, said the recent violence is worrisome because even if the Taliban fail to prevent the election, fears over security could keep some Afghans at home and result in a skewed election tally.

"It is worrying because the violence is much more than expect-

ed," he said.

"I don't think the Taliban have the capability to disrupt the election completely, but if the level of violence continues to rise in the south and the east, then that could disenfranchise a lot of Pashtuns and undermine the legitimacy of the elections."

The eastern and southern regions of Afghanistan have been plagued by guerilla warfare and

terrorist attacks for years, but the Taliban have promised to increase their campaign of violence before and during the elections.

"We have given orders to all our Mujahideen to use all force at its disposal to disrupt these upcoming sham elections," the Taliban said in a statement released online on March 10.

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# MILITARY

## Sinclair: General 'shamed' officer corps, lawyer says

### FROM FRONT PAGE

If he had been dismissed, Sinclair would have lost all retirement pay and benefits. But he still will go before a grade determination board that will decide at what rank he will be allowed to retire.

Greg Rinckey, a Washington attorney and former Army judge advocate general, said the sentence was "mildly surprising" but "in the realm" of an appropriate sentence for the offenses to which he admitted.

Yet the case is likely to reinforce arguments by critics that the military justice system is flawed and especially incapable of handling sexual offenses involving subordinates.

"This case has illustrated a military justice system in dire need of independence from the chain of command," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who sponsored legislation to remove sexual offense cases from the chain of command.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who fought the bill, said the case reinforced her argument.

"As a former sex crimes prosecutor, Claire knows how difficult these cases can be to prosecute, and this case is obviously a complicated one. But one of its lessons highlights what we already know — that commanders are often more aggressive than prosecutors in pursuing prosecutions and vetting these cases," spokeswoman Sarah Feldman said.

John Altengrub Jr., a Washington lawyer who served as the deputy judge advocate general for the Army from 1997 to 2001, said that even with the plea bargain, Sinclair could have received jail time. Before the sentence was announced, Altengrub said an appropriate sentence would have been dismissal, which is the officer equivalent of a dishonorable discharge, and several years' confinement.

"He shamed the entire officer corps and he's a disgrace to the uniform," he said. "He undermines all senior officers in the military by what he's done."

In the military judicial system, plea deals put a cap on the maximum punishment a defendant can receive, and they must be agreed to by the defendant and the convening authority. However, the judge does not see the agreed-upon punishment until after a sentence has been delivered. Once the judge hands down the sentence, he or she reads the maximum sentence agreed to in the plea bargain, and the defendant receives the lesser of the two punishments.

The plea agreement, unsealed Thursday, called for Sinclair to serve no more than 18 months in jail, but the judge's punishment was much lighter.

"Some people will say he got the officer discount," while an enlisted soldier may have gotten a few months' worth of confinement, Rinckey said. "That's always the big issue that we see spring up ...

and that's a valid point."

### Overreach and influence

A string of high-profile cases has fueled the ongoing debate about how the military handles sexual assaults and how best to reform the military justice system. But the Sinclair trial is muddier, with details that don't fit the framework of previous cases.

Military judge Col. James C. Pohl last week ruled that the Army exerted unlawful command influence when Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the commanding general at Fort Bragg at the time, turned down a plea deal for Sinclair before the trial began.

Pohl's ruling, which followed revelations that advocates for the accuser suggested that not pursuing the case would look bad in the current political climate, opened the door for a new plea deal that Sinclair and a different general agreed to earlier this week, which included dropping the charges of sexual assault and "open and notorious" sex. In return, Sinclair pleaded guilty to mistreating the captain with whom he had a three-year affair and misusing a government credit card to pursue the affair, among other charges.

Command influence is inherent in the military judicial system. Military commanders determine whether to prosecute their troops and sign off on plea bargains and sentences. But unlawful command influence, or when a commander says or does something to influence his subordinates regarding the outcome of judicial proceedings, is "the mortal enemy of the military justice system," said Rinckey.

Unlike the cases that raised the public and congressional consciousness about sexual assault in the military, the unlawful command influence in the case appeared to be working against Sinclair, rather than for him.

"I think the whole [political] atmosphere that has been permitted to occur has made it very, very difficult for people to think straight on this subject," said Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale Law School. "This was a train wreck."

Fidell supports a proposal by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., to remove prosecution authority in serious cases away from the victim and defendant's military commander and to give it to an independent military prosecutor. The plan earlier this month failed to clear the threshold to overcome a filibuster threat in the Senate.

And though Fidell and other legal experts believe the outcome of the Sinclair trial may well have been the same, regardless, he said having that judicial independence would have impacted public confidence in the way military justice is administered and "the system would have been spared a black eye."

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report. [hiad.jennifer@stripes.com](mailto:hiad.jennifer@stripes.com) Twitter: @jhiad



THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL/AP

Fred Phelps, who died Thursday, displays one of his many protest signs.

## Preacher who led protests at military funerals dies

By STEVE CHAWKINS  
Los Angeles Times

Fred Phelps, a publicity-hungry Kansas pastor who picketed hundreds of military funerals because he believed America was too sympathetic to gays, died early Thursday in Topeka, Kan. He was 84.

His daughter, Margie Phelps, confirmed his death to the Associated Press but did not give the cause.

With his small Topeka congregation, Phelps also demonstrated at funerals and memorials for Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, former Mormon leader Gordon B. Hinckley and heavy metal singer Ronnie James Dio — any obser-

vance, regardless of any connection to gay issues, where cameras might be rolling.

Convinced that the deaths of U.S. soldiers were divine retribution for the nation's increasing acceptance of homosexuality, Phelps and his followers carried signs like: "Thank God for Dead Soldiers" and "God Hates the USA/Thank God for 9/11." A disbarred attorney, Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church were sued numerous times but won a landmark freedom-of-speech case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Despite its name, his church is unaffiliated with any denomination. Its Web address, more reflective of its founder's theology, contains an anti-gay slur.

The congregation is heavily composed of his relatives, including many of his 13 children and 54 grandchildren.

Two of his estranged sons, Nate and Mark, have said that Phelps' clan "excommunicated" him last year. The church declined to comment.

Phelps came to national attention in 1998 leading anti-gay pickets at the Casper, Wyo., funeral of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old who had been lashed to a fence post and beaten to death. Five years after the funeral, Phelps returned to Casper with plans to erect a granite monument inscribed: "Matthew Shepard Entered Hell Oct. 12, 1998."

## Academy: Defendant did not testify in case

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Tate, a former football player, had been accused of having sex at the party with a female classmate who was so drunk she couldn't have consented.

The reputed victim testified that he drank heavily before and during the party and did not remember having sex with Tate in a car outside the party. She said that when she confronted Tate the next day after hearing rumors, he said they had sex.

She initially did not cooperate with the investigation and acknowledged urging Tate to lie, but said she later had a change of heart and wanted to pursue the

case. Tate did not testify during the court-martial.

With the decision in Tate's case, the Navy did not secure a guilty verdict against any of the three former football players initially investigated in the case, which drew national attention amid sexual assault in the military.

Ensign Tra'Ves Bush, who was a midshipman at the time, was not formally charged following a preliminary hearing last year.

Midshipman Eric Graham was charged with abusive sexual contact and making false statements. His case was dropped following pretrial rulings that were not fa-

vorable to the prosecution. He is in the process of withdrawing from the academy.

The reputed victim is now a senior at the academy.

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## MILITARY

## Vets' jobless rate edges down, but is still high

By TOM RAUM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New Labor Department figures show the unemployment rate for working-age veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces since September 2001 edged down slightly in 2013, to 9.0 percent. But Thursday's report also found that the rate remained well above the overall civilian unemployment figure of 6.7 percent.

The decrease followed a decline to 9.9 percent in 2012.

The statistics cover veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces at any time since September 2001, a group referred to as Gulf War-era veterans.

Still, the number was far higher than overall unemployment levels in the United States, which averaged 7.4 percent in 2013 and finished the year with a 6.7 percent overall rate for December. The overall unemployment rate was also 6.7 percent in February 2014.

**The report found that the jobless rate for veterans remained well above the overall civilian figure.**

The report by the agency's Bureau of Labor Statistics said that the overall unemployment rate for all veterans still considered in the work force, including those from earlier periods, was 6.6 percent for all of 2013, down

from 7.0 percent the year before.

Twenty-nine percent of veterans serving since 2001 reported having service-connected disabilities as of last August, compared with 15 percent of all veterans.

In 2013, 21.4 million men and women, or 9 percent of the general population 18 and older, were veterans, the report said.

Veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era accounted for roughly half of the total veteran population in the United States of 21.4 million men and women.

The unemployment rate for recent veterans has been noticeably higher than it is for nonveterans in the same demographic group, although the gap has been narrowing.

The new numbers came out a day after President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to 24 Army veterans in recognition of their valor during major combat operations in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The annual report was compiled by the Labor Department with the help of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Among all of the veterans, the unemployment rate for women fell to 9 percent in 2013 while the rate for men fell to 6.6 percent.

## Army team to prep for training Libyans

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A small team of soldiers will go into Libya in the coming weeks to begin preparations for a larger U.S. mission to train Libyan troops in Bulgaria, a senior Army official said Wednesday.

According to the official, fewer than a dozen soldiers will go to Tripoli but that number could grow as the group begins selecting the Libyan troops who will receive U.S. training. About 500 soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division will train between 5,000 and 8,000 Libyan forces in basic combat skills as part of a larger international effort to improve security in the North African nation.

**About 500 soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division will train between 5,000 and 8,000 Libyan forces in basic combat skills.**

The training was announced late last year, but sending a team into Libya was not. The team initially will be working with the Libyans to determine the scope and details of the training.

The official said that as time goes on and

the effort to select the Libyan troops expands, some additional soldiers could go to Tripoli to provide security for the team.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter by name.

Officials are waiting on final approval for the team to go to Tripoli. And the training will not begin until Libya approves the funding needed for the mission. That approval could happen sometime next month.

There are concerns about the rise of a number of militias in Libya as the nation's weak government struggles to take control in the aftermath of the ouster and death of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

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## MILITARY

# DOD withholds report on flawed \$2.7B intel effort

By GORDON LUBOLD  
AND SHANE HARRIS

Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — The Army has spent years defending a multibillion-dollar intelligence system that critics say costs too much and does too little. A new, internal report has found that there's a simple, relatively inexpensive program that could handle many of the same jobs at a fraction of the cost. For the past eight months, though, the Pentagon has kept the report hidden away.

Members of Congress have been asking Defense Department officials to send them the assessment, a copy of which was obtained by Foreign Policy, but the Pentagon has yet to do so. At issue is the Army's Distributed Common Ground System, expected to cost nearly \$11 billion over 30 years and built by a consortium of major contractors, including Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics. The system is meant to give troops on the ground an easy way to collect intelligence about terrorists and enemy fighters, and then to create detailed reports and maps that they can share with each other to plan and conduct operations. But critics — and even some troops — have long complained that the system doesn't actually work. They say

it's too slow and hard to use, and that it has left them searching for alternatives in the war zone.

The system's high cost and technical failings prompted a search for other options. Palantir Technologies, a fast-growing Silicon Valley firm, told the Pentagon that its off-the-shelf systems could accomplish most of the same tasks but cost far less — millions of dollars, rather than billions. The Marine Corps, Special Operations forces, the CIA, and a host of other government agencies already use it. Army officials, though, said Palantir wasn't up to the job. Now, a 57-page report by the Pentagon's acquisitions arm basically says the Army was wrong to dismiss the Palantir system. The study instead gives Palantir high marks on most of the Army's 20 key requirements for the intelligence system, including the ability to analyze large amounts of information, including critical data about terrorist networks and the locations of explosive devices, and synchronize it in a way that helps troops on the ground combat their enemies more effectively.

Palantir "can be utilized to partially meet DCGS-A requirements," the report concludes, using the acronym for the Distributed Common Ground System. The report is likely to sharpen concerns about the Distributed

Common Ground System, which has been facing mounting criticism on Capitol Hill. Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., one of many long-time detractors, had asked the Pentagon for its findings as recently as last month.

"It's a scandal that commercially available, battlefield-proven technology is ready to go at a fraction of the billions of dollars the Pentagon is spending to build a similar analysis tool in-house," Moran said in a statement to FP. "I appreciate [Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics] Frank Kendall taking this issue seriously, and look forward to hopefully resolving it once and for all when the long overdue report's findings are finally released."

The report, commissioned roughly one year ago, won't deal a fatal blow to the controversial Army program. But it raises new questions about why the service is wedded to its own system and why officials have been so quick to dismiss Palantir's capabilities, especially at a time when the Pentagon's budget is shrinking and Congress is pressing Defense Department officials to find ways of saving money.

An Army official referred a query from FP to the Pentagon's acquisition arm. Maureen Schumann, a spokeswoman, ac-



Courtesy of the Defense Department

**A report by the Pentagon's acquisitions arm says the Army was wrong to dismiss the Palantir intelligence-collection system.**

knowledgeed that the Defense Department's acquisition officials had commissioned a "top level analysis" last summer and presented its findings to officials internally. This spring, Schumann said, Kendall will respond to queries from members of Congress on the findings of that analysis. But it remains unclear if the assessment, itself, will ever be released. Officials at Palantir declined to comment for this story.

The report that was obtained by FP is steeped in bureaucratic terminology, but at its heart, it says the Palantir system it assesses could play a key role in Afghanistan or future war zones. The assessment, completed last summer, was first commissioned by Kendall after Moran and others asked more pointed questions about what the Palantir system could and could not do for the Army. Ultimately, the hope is to obtain an effective intelligence system that will help troops hunt terrorists, predict insurgent attacks, and plan safe missions. With the wars of the future likely to be guerrilla wars like Iraq and Afghanistan,

the Army intelligence program will only grow more important in the years to come.

The report consists of a detailed set of charts, graphs and analyses. It doesn't say that Palantir could replace the Army system, and its authors didn't conduct a head-to-head comparison of the two. But it concludes that Palantir, which has collected legions of fans in national security circles and has contracts with the CIA and FBI, performs "very good" or "excellent" on most key requirements, including some that Army brass had long insisted the company was unable to fulfill.

Palantir has "a rich suite of [applications] applicable to" the Army system and has "robust" capabilities to collect many different kinds of information that can be used to create intelligence reports and allow troops to share information with each other, the review finds.

Army officials have long complained that Palantir cannot be used with other applications that are already incorporated into the Army system.

## Pvt. Manning seeks formal name change to Chelsea

By DAVID DISHNEAU  
The Associated Press

The Army private who was tried and convicted as Bradley Edward Manning for leaking U.S. secrets to WikiLeaks is petitioning to a Kansas court for a name change, to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning. Leavenworth County District Court has scheduled an April 23 hearing on the request, according to a Leavenworth Times legal notice sent Wednesday to The Associated Press by a spokesman at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where Manning is serving a 35-year sentence. The petition was filed Jan. 27 and published March 1 after it was submitted by Manning's lawyer, David Coombs of Providence, Rhode Island.

Coombs didn't immediately respond to questions about the petition. Manning said in an October letter to supporters that Coombs would help her with the name change.

The Private Manning Support Network announced the petition on its website Wednesday. The group also said it is changing its

name to the Chelsea Manning Support Network.

Officials at Fort Leavenworth have said Manning would have to get a legal name change to be known as Chelsea.

The Associated Press has referred to Manning as Chelsea since shortly after she announced in August her desire to be known by that name and to be treated as a woman. Manning has been diagnosed by at least two Army behavioral health specialists with gender dysphoria, or gender identity disorder.

In addition to the name change, Manning has asked to receive hormone replacement therapy and to live as a woman while incarcerated.

The military has said it does not provide treatment for gender dysphoria because the Pentagon policy dictates that transgender soldiers are not allowed to serve.



Manning

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# Airman sentenced for molesting children

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — Nearly three years after the first reported molestation of a child in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, an airman formerly assigned to Ramstein Air Base has been convicted of committing numerous sexual and kidnapping offenses against four young victims.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael L. Merritt was sentenced to 50 years' imprisonment Tuesday by a military judge at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., according to Air Force officials in Europe and Wyoming.

His length of confinement will be capped at 25 years due to the terms of a pretrial agreement, according to joint news releases issued by U.S. Air Forces in Europe and F.E. Warren. Air Force officials said there was no other limitation on the sentence.

Merritt's punishment also included reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge.

In exchange for the pretrial agreement, Merritt, during a judge-only general court-martial, pleaded guilty to charges involving four children over a period of 10 years, from 2003 to 2013. The charges included aggravated sexual assault, sexual abuse, sodomy, assault consummated by a battery, kidnapping and attempted kidnapping, the Air Force said.

Merritt was a facility manager for the 319th Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren. He served there in a support role and did not have direct contact with the base's nuclear operations mission, officials said. The pretrial agreement saved four young child victims from having to testify and recount Merritt's abuse in a litigated trial, according to the F.E. Warren news release.

Most of the charges against Merritt stemmed from offenses he committed while he was at Ramstein, an assignment that began in October 2006 and ended in August 2013, when he made a permanent-change-of-station move to F.E. Warren, officials said.

The news releases said the offenses occurred on bases in Germany and the U.S. Officials would not say where Merritt was stationed before Germany, citing the ongoing investigation.

An investigation in Germany was launched after a child came forward in January 2012 to say a man had pulled her into his car and molested her in the Ramstein housing area, according to the USAFE news release. Air Force officials said in 2012 that the incident occurred in August 2011.

Several children in Ramstein and Vogelweh housing areas came forward within that year to report kidnapping attempts and molestations, according to the USAFE news release.

The perpetrator hired children in broad daylight inside the gated military communities while reportedly wearing clothing that resembled a military uniform.

Base officials stepped up security patrols, held town hall meetings to spread the word, and tightened child supervision rules, raising the age limit at which children could be left unsupervised.

"We are grateful that the fami-

lies of the KMC area finally have closure on this," Lt. Gen. Tom Jones, USAFE and Air Forces Africa vice commander and KMC commander, was quoted as saying in the news release. "This predator caused a lot of pain and suffering in our community, and we hope this conviction provides healing and a sense of security for all those affected."

Merritt for months eluded detection. Investigators pinpointed Merritt as the sole perpetrator after forensic evidence analyzed by the U.S. Army Criminal Investiga-

tion Laboratory matched evidence found on some of the children's clothing, said Lt. Col. Christopher J. Ouellette, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, 13th Field Investigations Squadron commander, according to the USAFE news release.

The forensic evidence, combined with witness testimonies and corroborated circumstantial evidence, helped lead to Merritt's arrest at F.E. Warren, officials said.

Merritt was taken into military custody last October after his reassignment to F.E. Warren in

August.

USAFE officials said Merritt, while in Germany, lived in Vogelweh housing. At Ramstein, he held a variety of jobs at the 86th Airlift Wing and 435th Munitions Squadron.

The investigation into Merritt's actions are continuing, Ouellette said, and it's believed there could be many more victims. Individuals who may have knowledge of crimes by Merritt, or may have been a potential victim of his or other unknown perpetrators, are urged to contact OSI.

Investigators spent several months conducting more than 600 interviews and collecting more than 250 forensic samples from potential suspects. OSI agents received more than 100 tips from KMC residents, said Special Agent Michael Fischer, 13th FIS, Major Crimes Division.

"Without direct community involvement, leadership support and cooperation from the brave victims, we would not have succeeded in identifying this sexual predator," Fischer was quoted as saying in the news release.

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## NATION



Jin Lee/AP

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks after receiving the American Jewish Congress' lifetime achievement award on Wednesday in New York.

# Hillary Clinton 'skeptical' about Iranian nuclear deal

By PHILIP RUCKER  
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — Hillary Rodham Clinton cast doubt on the interim nuclear agreement with Iran, saying in a muscular policy speech here Wednesday night that she is "personally skeptical" that Iran's leaders will follow through on a comprehensive agreement to end their march toward nuclear weapons.

Still, the former secretary of state and potential 2016 presidential candidate told a pro-Israel audience in New York that she stands behind the Obama administration's negotiations with Iran, and she commended the work of her successor, John Kerry.

Clinton said the United States should "give space for diplomacy to work" and avoid imposing new unilateral sanctions or any other actions that might lead any allies to back out of existing international sanctions against Iran.

"The odds of reaching that comprehensive agreement are not good," Clinton said. "I am also personally skeptical that the Iranians would follow through and deliver. I have seen their behavior over years. But this is a development that is worth testing."

If the negotiations with Iran fail, however, Clinton said the United States should explore "every other option."

"Let's be clear," she said, "every other option does remain on the table."

In a 30-minute address at an American Jewish Congress gala — where she was honored with a lifetime achievement award by actress Julianna Margulies and serenaded at the dinner table by

Israeli singer Liel Kolet — Clinton presented herself as a tough defender of Israel in the Senate and at the State Department.

"When Americans of all faiths look at Israel, we see a homeland for a people long oppressed and a democracy that has to defend itself at every turn," Clinton said. "In Israel's story, we see our own."

Clinton described in detail her role in shaping the country's policies with regard to Iran from the earliest days of the Obama administration. This is likely to be a focus of her forthcoming memoir, due out this spring, which she teased in a separate speech earlier Wednesday.

Addressing the Association of American Publishers, Clinton said the book would cover challenges in the 21st century from Crimea to climate change. "Just another light summer read," she quipped.

She described her study at home as an episode of "Hoarders," with book notes and chapter drafts piled up all over. And she said her advisers, family and friends are vigorously debating the merits of her paragraphs.

Clinton is still mulling a title — although she joked that she was considering "The Scrunchie Chronicles: 112 Countries and It's Still All About My Hair," a winner from a reader contest last year in *The Washington Post's* "In the Loop" column.

In her book, Clinton will frame her State Department legacy and lay out her views on a range of important policy matters ahead of a potential presidential campaign.

Clinton said the book would be "about my experiences at the State Department, our rap-

idly changing and increasingly interdependent world, and the challenges facing us in the 21st century.

## Paul bashes Obama, others on surveillance

By PAUL ELIAS  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — In a university speech, Republican Sen. Rand Paul criticized President Barack Obama and other government leaders over recent surveillance disclosures.

"I find it ironic that the first African-American president has without compunction allowed this vast exercise of raw power by the NSA," said Paul Wednesday, noting that other black heroes such as Martin Luther King Jr. were targets of illegal government spying.

Paul was warmly received at the University of California, Berkeley, as he held forth for 30 minutes on what he perceives to be abuses of government spy programs and a lack of oversight of the National Security Agency.

Paul, who is considering a presidential bid and is seen as one of several GOP front-runners ahead of 2016, called for the creation of a bipartisan congressional committee to address allegations raised by Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California that CIA agents secretly searched Senate computers.

He said he hoped that such a commission would be similar to the Church Committee of the 1970s, referring to the special Senate panel that exposed CIA abuses and pushed through laws limiting the intelligence community's powers.

Dressed in blue jeans, a white

Ralph Lauren shirt with logo, red tie and cowboy boots, Paul spent much of his time trying to connect with his college-age audience, warning several times that their phones and computers were easily accessed by government



Paul

spooks. "I believe what you do on a cellphone is none of their damn business," he said to applause.

He compared the Republican Party to a Domino Pizza's ad campaign in which the company admits to having made bad dough in the past but promising change in the future.

"We need a different kind of party," he said.

Paul was asked his thoughts on Edward Snowden, the NSA contractor who leaked thousands of pages of sensitive documents exposing embarrassing intelligence practices. Snowden is living in Moscow, afraid of criminal prosecution if he returns to the United States.

Paul said that he had "mixed emotions" about Snowden. On the one hand, Paul said Snowden broke the law, but that he shouldn't "be shot or stung up." On the other hand, Paul said Snowden helped expose "an intelligence community that's drunk with power, unrepentant and unwilling to relinquish power."

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## NATION

## New dinosaur called 'Chicken from Hell'

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
The Washington Post

Scientists have discovered a freakish, birdlike species of dinosaur — 11 feet long, 500 pounds, with a beak, no teeth, a bony crest atop its head, murderous claws, prize-fighter arms, spindly legs, a thin tail and feathers sprouting all over the place. Officially, it's a member of a group of dinosaurs called oviraptorosaurs.

Unofficially, it's the "Chicken from Hell." That's the nickname the scientists have been using. This dino-bird is not literally a chicken, or even a bird. It's definitely a dinosaur, and it lived at the end of the Cretaceous period, from about 68 million to 66 million years ago.

It would have been a cross between a chicken and a lizard," said Tyler Lyson, a paleontologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, who excavated some of the fossils on his uncle's North Dakota ranch in 1999.

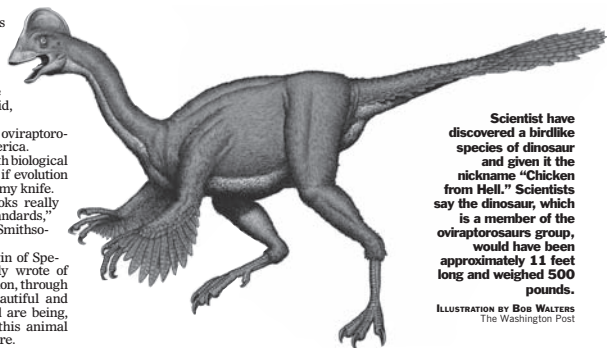
The fossils of three specimens of the new dinosaur were found in a sedimentary rock layer known as the Hell Creek Formation in three locations in North and South Dakota. The formation, the scientists said, helped inspire the nickname.

It's a big animal, the biggest oviraptorosaur species found in North America.

The new dinosaur is loaded with biological accessories and adaptations, as if evolution had been inspired by a Swiss Army knife.

"This group of dinosaurs looks really bizarre even by dinosaurian standards," said Hans-Dieter Sues, another Smithsonian paleontologist.

In the final line of "The Origin of Species," Charles Darwin famously wrote of the "grandeur" of natural selection, through which "endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved" — but he never saw this animal from a Colonel Sanders nightmare.



Scientist have discovered a birdlike species of dinosaur and given it the nickname "Chicken from Hell." Scientists say the dinosaur, which is a member of the oviraptorosaurs group, would have been approximately 11 feet long and weighed 500 pounds.

ILLUSTRATION BY BOB WALTERS  
The Washington Post



AP

A line of trucks plow roads in Birmingham Township, Pa., on Feb. 13. In Pennsylvania, legislators have approved special appropriations that will help pay for state snow costs but won't cover everything.

## Winter's snowy barrage hammers road budgets

By JOHN FLESHER  
The Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — In Michigan's way-up-north Keweenaw Peninsula, where 200 inches of snow in a single season elicits barely a shrug, officials know there's nothing in the budget more important than keeping the roads passable.

Even though they have been caught short this merciless winter, Houghton County planned to spend around \$2.1 million for plowing, salting and related maintenance, which experience suggested would be plenty, but has overshot it by \$500,000 and counting.

State and local governments across a huge swath of the nation, from the Great Plains to the Upper Midwest and the Deep South to New England, are experiencing sticker shock after one of the coldest, snowiest, iciest winters in memory. Many have spent two or three times as much as they budgeted for clearing roads. More bad weather could send costs higher.

Even as Thursday's official arrival of spring presages warmer weather, it's clear that winter's bitter aftertaste will linger much

longer as officials compensate for untold millions in unexpected spending that includes patching a rash of potholes. In some states, legislatures are already preparing emergency appropriations. Elsewhere, road agencies are delaying repaving projects, cutting back on roadside mowing and summer hires, dipping into rainy-day funds and making do with battered equipment instead of buying more.

Virginia budgeted \$157 million for snow removal and may exceed it by \$150 million — probably the most the state has ever spent for the purpose. "The bills are still coming in," spokeswoman Tamara Rollinson said.

Montgomery County, Md., in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, has spent three times its budgeted amount. Illinois is 200 percent over its three-year average, and its crews have spread almost double the usual volume of salt — a mixed blessing, since it corrodes roads and bridges as it melts the snow. North Carolina planned for \$40 million and has spent \$62 million. Arkansas, where ice is often a bigger problem than snow, has spent a record \$18 million, three times its seasonal average.

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## UKRAINE UNREST

## Obama orders new sanctions on Russia

By JULIE PACE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking to intensify pressure on Russia, President Barack Obama on Thursday expanded U.S. economic sanctions against Moscow over its actions in Ukraine, targeting President Vladimir Putin's chief of staff and 19 other individuals as well as a Russian bank that provides them support.

Obama, warning of more costs to come for the Kremlin if the situation worsens, said he also had

**“The world is watching with grave concern as Russia has positioned its military in a way that could lead to further incursions into ... Ukraine.”**

**President Barack Obama**

signed an executive order that would allow the U.S. to penalize key sectors of the Russian economy, including its huge energy business. Officials said Obama could act on that authority if Russian forces press into other areas of Ukraine, an escalation of the crisis in Crimea.

The president said the latest penalties were the result of “choices the Russian government has made, choices that have been rejected by the international community.”

“Russia must know that further escalation will only isolate it further from the international community,” Obama said, speaking from the South Lawn of the White House.

European Union leaders, too, said they would expand the number of people targeted with various sanctions and indicated they would cancel an EU-Russia summit. Chancellor Angela Merkel told the German parliament that if the crisis deepens in Crimea and Ukraine, the EU is prepared to move to economic sanctions on



ANDREW LUBIMOV/AP

A man in an unmarked uniform with a ribbon symbolizing the Soviet victory in World War II, holds a gun during seizure of the Ukrainian corvette Khmelnitsky in Sevastopol, Crimea, on Thursday. Pro-Russian crowds seized two Ukrainian warships. Shots were fired but there were no casualties as the Khmelnitsky was seized in Sevastopol. Another ship, the Luts, also was surrounded by pro-Russian forces.

a higher level.

Russia retaliated quickly by imposing entry bans on American lawmakers and senior White House officials. Among them were Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. Obama's senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer and his deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, were also targets of the Russian entry bans.

Boehner's office said the speaker was “proud to be included on a list of those willing to stand against Putin's aggression.”

The new American sanctions hit close advisers to Putin, including Sergei Ivanov, the Russian president's chief of staff and a longtime associate. Also targeted were Arkady Rotenberg and Gennady Timchenko, both lifelong Putin friends whose companies have amassed billions of dollars

in government contracts.

Also sanctioned: Bank Rossiya, a private bank that is owned by Yuri Kovalchuk, who is considered to be Putin's banker.

The U.S. sanctions followed a first round of U.S. economic penalties ordered earlier in the week on 11 people the U.S. said were involved in the dispute in Ukraine. Russia moved its military into Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula three weeks ago and has since formally annexed the strategically important region into its borders.

The U.S. has declared Russia's incursion into Crimea a violation of international law and does not recognize its annexation of the peninsula.

Still, U.S. officials privately acknowledge that Russia is unlikely to give up Crimea. Instead, their top priority is keeping Russia from moving into other areas

of Ukraine with pro-Russian populations.

“The world is watching with grave concern as Russia has positioned its military in a way that could lead to further incursions into southern and eastern Ukraine,” Obama said.

Senior administration officials said the individuals targeted by Thursday's sanctions will have assets frozen in the United States, will be barred from doing any business in the U.S. and will be unable to make transactions in American dollars. The officials said some of those sanctioned are close associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin has not been personally targeted by the first two rounds of U.S. sanctions. American sanctions on heads of state are rare, largely reserved for instances where the U.S. is seeking a change in government leadership.

## Pro-Russian crowds seize 2 Ukrainian warships

By JIM HEINTZ  
AND DAVID RISING  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Pro-Russian crowds seized two Ukrainian warships Thursday and Ukraine said its troops were being threatened in Crimea as the European Union considered new sanctions against Russia for its annexation of the Black Sea peninsula.

Tensions in the region remained high despite the release of a Ukrainian naval commander held by pro-Russian forces.

Shots were fired but there were no casualties as the Ukrainian corvette Khmelnitsky was seized in Sevastopol, according to an AP photographer at the scene. Another ship, the Luts, was also surrounded by pro-Russian forces.

The Defense Ministry had no immediate information on the incidents.

Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Leonid Polyakov accused Russian troops of constantly threatening a storm military bases where Ukrainian soldiers were located, according to the Interfax news agency.

In Geneva, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations warned of a sharp deterioration in relations between the two neighbors, saying that Russia appears to be preparing for a military “invasion” in more areas of his country.

Ambassador Yuri Tymoshenko said there were “indications that Russia is on its way to unleash a full-blown military invention in Ukraine's east and south” since its annexation of Crimea. He said his statement was based on information from non-governmental organizations.

In an address to the German Parliament in Berlin, Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU was readying further sanctions and that the G-8 forum of leading economies had been suspended indefinitely. Russia holds the presidency of the G-8 and President Vladimir Putin was due to host his counterparts, including President Barack Obama, at a G-8 summit in Sochi in June.

“So long as there aren't the political circumstances, like now, for an important format like the G-8, then there is no G-8,” Merkel said. “Neither the summit, nor the format.”

The EU and the United States have slapped sanctions on individuals involved in what they say was Crimea's unlawful referendum over joining Russia. Moscow formally annexed Crimea earlier this week in the wake of the poll. The Black Sea peninsula had been part of Russia for centuries until 1954 when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine, and many residents were happy about rejoining Russia.

## USS George H.W. Bush departs the Mediterranean



TOM WINKLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The French navy frigate FS Casard passes alongside the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush during an exercise in the Mediterranean Sea earlier this month.

Stars and Stripes

The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush has departed the Mediterranean Sea and entered the Middle East, less than a week after the Pentagon extended its stay in European waters.

The Bush steamed through the Suez Canal on Wednesday, according to a Navy release.

Military leaders chose to keep the carrier and its strike group, with roughly 6,000 sailors, four ships and eight aircraft squadrons, in the Mediterranean several days past its scheduled departure to reassure allies amid the continuing turmoil in Ukraine.

The destroyer USS Truxtun, which is part of the carrier group,

remained in the Black Sea as of Thursday, following exercises with Bulgarian and Romanian navies.

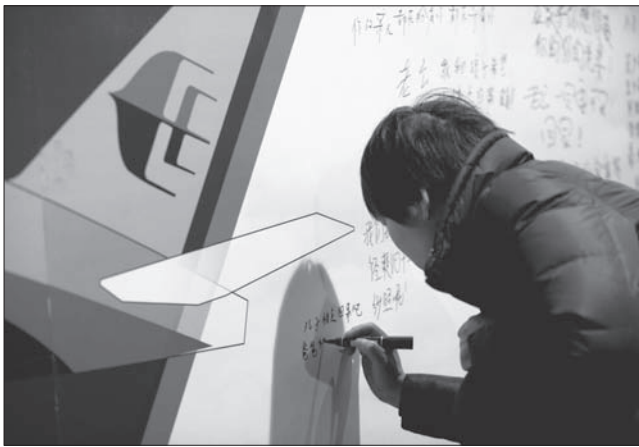
The Bush Carrier Strike Group departed Norfolk, Va., last month on what is only the carrier's second deployment. It entered the Navy's 6th Fleet waters on Feb. 24 before a scheduled transit to the Middle East.

The Bush is expected to replace the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group near the Persian Gulf. It follows the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, which entered the 6th Fleet waters last week and replaced the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, which is now homeward bound.

news@stripes.com



## WORLD



Andy Wong/AP

A woman writes a message on a board dedicated to the passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at a hotel in Beijing on Thursday.

# Search for plane shifts to site of floating objects

By SCOTT McDONALD  
AND KRISTEN GELINEAU  
*The Associated Press*

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** — An air search in the southern Indian Ocean for possible objects from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane described as the “best lead” so far ended for the day without success Thursday but will resume in the morning, Australian rescue officials said.

The four planes were checking to see if two large objects spotted in satellite imagery bobbing in the remote ocean were debris from Flight 370 that disappeared March 8 with 239 people on board.

One of the objects was almost 80 feet in length and the other was 15 feet. There could be other objects in the area, a four-hour flight from Australia’s southwest coast, said John Young, manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s emergency response division.

“This is a lead, it’s probably the best lead we have right now,” Young said. He cautioned that the objects could be seaborne debris along a shipping route where containers can fall off cargo vessels, although the larger object is longer than a container.

A statement from the authority said the four planes searched an area of 8,800 square miles about 1,550 miles southwest of Perth on Thursday without success. The area is about halfway between Australia and desolate islands off the Antarctic.

The search will continue on Friday, it said. It earlier said the search had been hampered by

low visibility caused by clouds and rain.

News that possible plane parts had been found marked a new phase in the emotional roller coaster for distraught relatives of the passengers, who have criticized Malaysia harshly for not releasing timely information about the plane. While they still hope their love.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told a news conference Thursday that “for all the families around the world, the one piece of information that they want most is the information we just don’t have — the location of MH370.”

Malaysian officials held a meeting Thursday night with the relatives in a hotel near Kuala Lumpur, but journalists were kept away. The family members walked into the meeting with sad faces and one Malay man with two children said “no pictures please.” No details of the meeting were released. A group of officials also flew to Beijing on Thursday night to meet families there.

Young said the depth of the ocean in the latest area, which is south from where the search had been focused since Monday, is several thousand yards.

He said it may be difficult to spot the objects as they “are relatively indistinct on the imagery ... but those who are experts indicate they are credible sightings. The indication to me is of objects that are a reasonable size and probably awash with water, moving up and down over the surface.”

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority released two images of the whitish objects. They were

taken March 16, but Australian Air Commodore John McGarry said it took time to analyze them.

An Australian C-130 Hercules plane dropped marker buoys in the area to aid in the search.

But some analysts said the debris is most likely not pieces of Flight 370. “The chances of it being debris from the airplane are probably small, and the chances of it being debris from other shipping are probably large,” said Jason Middleton, an aviation professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

The hunt for the Boeing 777 has been punctuated by several false leads since it disappeared above the Gulf of Thailand. But this is the first time that possible objects have been spotted since the search area was massively expanded into two corridors, one stretching from northern Thailand into Central Asia and the other from the Strait of Malacca down to southern reaches of the Indian Ocean.

The Norwegian cargo vessel Hoegh St. Petersburg was rerouted and arrived at the area in the Indian Ocean where the possible wreckage was spotted.

“They (the ship) have been asked to continue the search tomorrow and they will continue tomorrow morning,” Ingat Skiaer from Hoegh Autoliners told a news conference in Oslo.

The Norwegian ship, which transports cars, was on its way from South Africa to Australia, Skiaer said. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said another commercial ship and an Australian navy vessel were also en route to the search area.

## With leads limited, jet’s disappearance generates theories

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
*The Washington Post*

The missing plane left behind a vapor trail of scenarios, and they have grown increasingly elaborate in the absence of information. Aviation consultants sense that this could be a 9/11 plot gone awry. Or perhaps it is a 9/11 plot brilliantly executed and still operational. And yet an accident of some kind still hasn’t been ruled out.

The crucial evidence about what happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 on March 8 may be 2½ miles deep in the Indian Ocean.

One awful possibility: We’ll never know.

The lack of solid data has invited freewheeling speculation in the news media and around water coolers everywhere. Individually, the scenarios tend to lack strong factual foundations. Collectively, they may or may not hold the answer.

“There’s still no clarity about what happened to that airplane other than the fact that it changed course and went off to points unknown,” said Sean Cassidy, an Alaska Airlines captain who is national safety coordinator for the U.S. Air Line Pilots Association.

Aviation experts are discussing many possibilities, and they include:

**1) Mechanical failure:** The plane could have suffered some kind of electrical fire that caused a crisis and an emergency response. This was the hypothesis in a much-discussed article on Wired.com by a pilot who argued that the pilot of Flight MH370 must have turned the aircraft around in hopes of reaching an airport for an emergency landing, only to crash somewhere at sea.

Another possibility is catastrophic decompression. The crew could have lost consciousness and the plane could have kept flying — what people have been calling the “Payne Stewart scenario,” after the golfer who died in 1999 when a Learjet underwent decompression and kept flying for more than 1,000 miles before crashing in South Dakota.

If the Malaysian plane’s diversion was pre-programmed, as some reports suggest, that would pretty much rule out an accident. The pilot never radioed any distress, and the radios rely on batteries and would still operate after an electrical fire, said Hans Weber, a San Diego-based aviation consultant.

**2) Hijacking/commandeering:** Technically, a hijacking comes with demands, whereas commandeering can be for a variety of malevolent or idiosyncratic purposes. But in both cases this would have been a plane intentionally diverted — for reasons unknown — from its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

“It had enough fuel to go many places, and, unfortunately, it had enough fuel to go into places where you don’t have civil radar systems, for example, and into a part of the world where terrorism and to some extent state-supported terrorism exists,” said George Hamlin, an aviation consultant based in Fairfax, Va.

He broached the possibility that this is part of an ongoing operation akin to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — including, perhaps, using the plane to deliver an explosive device somewhere.

**3) The plane landed:** Hundreds of airfields were in range of the airliner, conceivably. It’s implausible that it landed at a major commercial airport. This leads to speculation that it reached an abandoned airstrip.

**4) Officials know where the jet is:** Officials in charge of the investigation may know much more than they have revealed. They may have decided to withhold information to protect investigatory assets (such as satellite capabilities), to cover up a mistake or national security inadequacy (such as a lack of good radar coverage), or to avoid tipping off people of interest.

“We’re dealing with military organizations, and they don’t want to tell you, and especially they don’t want to tell you if it looks like they really screwed up,” Weber said.

**5) Terrorist attempt was aborted:** If hijackers seized the plane, they conceivably could have been challenged by passengers or crewmembers, as happened on United Airlines Flight 93, the hijacked jetliner that crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001. Many scenarios emerge from this one. It’s possible that hijackers intentionally crashed the plane in the remote Indian Ocean to cover the tracks of an ambitious operation that didn’t quite work, but one that could be “attempted again some day.”

Said Hamlin, “I’m not taking bets on any of the scenarios. But you have to do some out-of-the-box thinking in terms of what could have happened here.”

George Hamlin

aviation consultant based in Fairfax, Va.

**‘I’m not taking bets on any of the scenarios. But you have to do some out-of-the-box thinking in terms of what could have happened here.’**

## WORLD



AMR NABIL/AP

An Egyptian firefighter checks a crater made by a blast at the Cairo police headquarters in downtown Cairo in January. The militant group Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, which has waged a campaign of bombings and assassinations for months in Egypt, has quickly advanced in weaponry and sophistication of attacks.

# Egypt at risk

## Escalating violence could turn nation into new front for jihadi groups

By LEE KEATH

The Associated Press

CAIRO — An Islamic militant group that has waged a campaign of bombings and assassinations for months in Egypt has quickly advanced in weaponry and sophistication of attacks, drawing on the experience of Egyptians who fought in Syria's civil war.

The increasing capabilities of the group, called Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, Arabic for the Champions of Jerusalem, raises the danger that a wave of violence that began as a retaliation for the military's ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi is evolving into a new front for regional jihadi groups.

Ansar Beit al-Maqdis first arose in the Sinai Peninsula, where for years militant groups largely made of up local Bedouin had carried out attacks, lobbing rockets into neighboring Israel and at times opening fire on military and police. Attacks escalated after the 2011 fall of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, when militants turned their guns more directly against Egyptian soldiers and police. But after the July 3 coup removing Morsi, militants dramatically stepped up their campaign, and it has since spread to cities of the Nile Delta and the capital, Cairo. In recent weeks, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri took up the cause in a recent message urging Egyptians to join the fight against the man who removed Morsi, army chief Abdel-Pattah

el-Sissi. One of al-Qaida's strongest branches, based in Yemen, praised "our mujahedeen brothers in Sinai."

Ansar Beit al-Maqdis "has rapidly become one of the most active jihadist groups in the world," the U.S.-based intelligence assessment group Startfor warned in report last week.

It said the string of messages suggested the group is getting "outside help," possibly from the Yemen branch, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a former al-Qaida branch fighting in both Iraq and Syria. In a recording last month, the leader of Ansar Beit al-Maqdis Abu Osama al-Masri saluted the Islamic State, a sign of its influence with his group.

The group is also benefiting from Egyptian militants returning from fronts of jihad, or holy war, elsewhere around the region. After a failed attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim in Cairo in September, the group identified the suicide bomber as Walid Badr, a former Egyptian army major who it said had fought in Afghanistan after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 and later in Syria's civil war. In a separate statement, it said another militant, Saeed el-Shahat, an Egyptian who also fought in Syria, blew himself up when police raided his apartment in January.

Further alarm was raised over Ansar Beit al-Maqdis' capabilities when it downed a military helicop-



AHMED ASHRAF/AP

Egyptian policemen guard the scene of a powerful explosion at a police headquarters building that killed at least a dozen people, wounded more than 100 and left scores buried under rubble in Mansoura, 70 miles north of Cairo, Egypt, in December.

ter in Sinai in late January, killing all five crewmembers. Based on a video by the group purporting to show the attack, the fighters used a shoulder-fired missile from the Russian-made Igla series, which is more advanced than weapons systems previously seen among militant groups, the London-based military analysis group Jane's Defense Weekly reported.

Last week, militants assassinated a senior interior ministry aide with a single shot through the neck as he sat in his car, security officials said, a sign of an experienced sniper. Days earlier, they set up a powerful truck bomb outside Cairo's main security di-

rectorate, timed during a change in shifts, killing five people in the center of the capital. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

The growth in the group's campaign adds a further layer of turmoil as security forces wage a fierce crackdown on Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist allies, which have continued protests demanding his reinstatement. Police assaults on protests have killed hundreds of Morsi supporters and thousands more have been arrested, including Morsi and most of the Brotherhood's leadership,

who now face a series of trials.

The government alleges the Brotherhood has been behind the militant campaign from the start, accusing its leaders of working with militants to launch the insurgency. In December, it declared the Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The Brotherhood, which officially renounced violence in the 1970s, denies the accusation and calls it a pretext to wipe out the government's top political rival, which won a string of elections after Mubarak's fall.

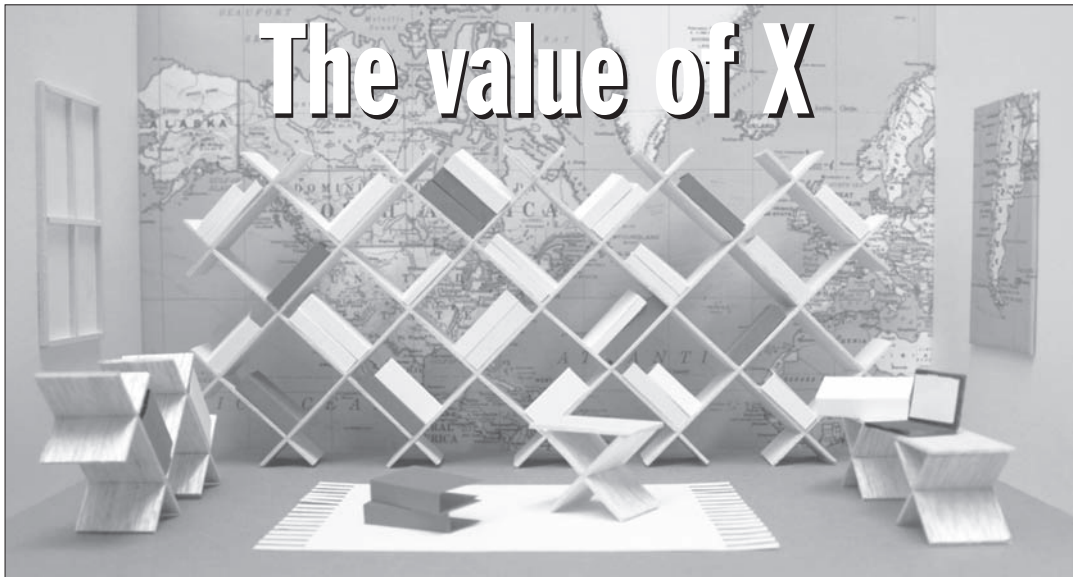
Egypt's security agencies say they have amassed evidence of the Brotherhood's role. But so far it largely has not been made public, nor has it been put through judicial scrutiny. Instead, their purported evidence has come out in a flow of leaks to the Egyptian press by anonymous officials — making its veracity impossible to assess independently.

In December, for example, officials in the prosecutors' office leaked to the Egyptian press the purported confessions of Mohammed el-Zawahiri, the brother of al-Qaida's leader who is himself a prominent figure in extremist circles and was a strong supporter of Morsi's presidency. He was arrested soon after Morsi's ouster.

According to the leaks, he told interrogators that the Brotherhood's deputy leader Khairat el-Shater gave him millions of dollars to buy weapons from Libya for Sinai militants and demanded they attack the military and government institutions.

## NATION

# The value of X



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PROJECT H DESIGN/Slate

A new library at REALM Charter School in Berkeley, Calif., will be carved out of an existing room in a commercial building. Designed and built by eighth-grade students, it is centered on the concept of X-shaped modules that will create everything from bookshelves to seating.

## Eighth-graders design and build a school library for the 21st century

By KRISTIN HOHENADEL  
Slate

There's an empty room at the REALM Charter School, which opened three years ago in an existing commercial building in Berkeley, Calif. When Emily Pilloton, director of the school's Studio H design and build class, and Hallie Chen, an eighth-grade teacher, asked students what they envisioned for the space, they had plenty of ideas.

"When we asked them, 'what do you want out of your school,' they didn't use the word 'library,'" Pilloton said in a phone interview. "They said they wanted a space to relax and read and discover. They said 'I want to learn how microphones work,' 'I want to learn how ostriches make their nests,' 'I want to learn how to make video games,' or 'I want to learn better English.' All these questions about exploration and finding things you don't know."

Pilloton's Studio H program, which teaches kids hands-on design and building skills, has previously empowered high-school students in Bertie County, N.C., to build a community farmer's market, earning them the key to the city. Now based at REALM, where she recently started a design-and-building camp for girls, Pilloton is helping lead 108 eighth-graders on a mission to design and build a 21st-century school library.

To get started, they took a field trip to the new public library half a mile from their school.

"It's a beautiful library; a bunch



REALM Charter School students assemble X-shaped units made of precision-cut plywood that will form the base of shelving, furniture, fixtures and more.

of stacks and tables, but it's what you would expect," Pilloton said. "So we said 'This doesn't have to look like a library; it doesn't even have to look like a library.' I'm sort of an old fogey in this regard, I love books and I think kids should have thousands of books around them. But in the same way that our classroom has old-school chisels and wood planes and a laser cutter right next to each other, I think our space should have old papyrus scripts next to iPads. And our students should feel comfortable walking in there and seeing those two things as of the same value."

Pilloton and Chen said they looked for a design strategy that would be both manageable for eighth-graders and logistically possible for 108 students to collaborate on equally. They decided on a building block model,

in which the crux of the student design work goes into conceiving of one basic module, which, like a Lego brick, then can form the basis of everything in the space, from bookshelves to tables, seating and light fixtures.

"We thought that was a metaphor for our students," Pilloton said. "They're greater as a whole but individually have their place in it."

They eventually decided to use an X as the building block and are calling their newfangled library the X-Space.

"They're all taking prealgebra right now, so they all know that X is the unknown," Pilloton said, "X can be anything. You go into this space and explore and find new things, whether that's in a book or on a laptop or through a project you're

**'When we asked them, 'what do you want out of your school,' they didn't use the word 'library,' They said they wanted a space to relax and read and discover.'**

Emily Pilloton

Director of the design and build class at REALM Charter School in Berkeley, Calif.

doing with your classmates." The individual units, which they are calling STAX, are made of 13-ply finished plywood. Carl Bass, CEO of Autodesk, helped them to work out the details of the design to make sure the modules would be stable enough to support the weight of books. He volunteered his high-precision computer numerical controlled (CNC) cutting machine to ensure that each module would be identical, cutting the pieces needed to make the STAX units himself in his private shop nearby.

"Most bookshelves are horizontal," Pilloton said. In the X-Space, "all the books will be at 45 degree angles. So you have to engage with the shelf in a way that forces you to weave through some books that maybe you're not even looking for but maybe along the way you find out why ostriches build their nests."

It seems noteworthy that the library project is the last space to be built out in the school, which probably wouldn't have been the case even 20 years ago. Not to mention that the school has run out of funds for renovation. So to

raise the \$75,000 needed to build and equip the X-Space, Pilloton and her students have launched a Kickstarter campaign that they hope will fund books, construction materials, lighting, fixtures, hardware, technology, software, subscriptions, periodicals and e-books for the X-Space.



Berkeley, Calif., eighth-graders decided to use an X as their modular building block and are calling their newfangled library the X-Space.



## NATION

# LOOK MA, NO HANDS!

## NO PAPER NECESSARY: HIGH-TECH TOILETS DO IT ALL FOR YOU

By KATHERINE ROTH  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Every so often a revolution transforms something truly basic, rendering the status quo somewhat, well, primitive.

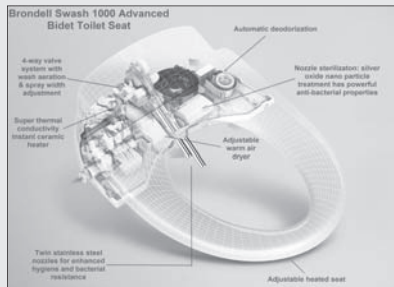
First came covered sewers, then indoor plumbing and flush toilets. Now, one bathroom at a time, another major shift in toilet hygiene is quietly underway. A new generation of toilets may one day make toilet paper — and the need to put one's hands anywhere near the unspeakable — seem like chamber pots and outhouses: outdated and somewhat messy throwbacks reserved for camping trips.

Unlike traditional toilets, the high-tech version washes from behind and — if desired — in front with water. Better models allow for temperature, direction and pressure control, and have retractable spritzing wands and automatic driers as well. The best feature warm seats, automatic motion sensors to raise the lid, buttons to raise the seat, nightlights, self-cleaning mechanisms, music to mask unpleasant sounds, deodorizer spritzers and other conveniences.

"Paper just distributes the problem," said Lenora Campos, a spokeswoman for Georgia-based Toto USA. Toto, the Japanese company that pioneered the modern electronic toilet seat, has sold 34 million of them globally. "We wash most things with water and wouldn't dream of wiping a dish or anything else with a piece of paper and calling it clean. So why should personal hygiene be any different?"

Toto began marketing the Washlet in Japan in 1980. Now 74 percent of Japanese households have toilets of the high-tech persuasion, making them more common there than home computers.

The concept of electronic toilets that



AP photos

Above: A rendering is shown of Brondell's award-winning Swash 1000 Advanced Bidet Toilet Seat.



Japanese company Toto is the maker of high-tech toilets such as the Washlet S350, left, and the NEOREST 700, right.



cleanse with water — widely known as bidet toilets or Washlets — has spread internationally over time, and dozens of companies around the world, including Inax, Brondell and Kohler, are producing them.

"We bugged Home Depot and other

stores for seven or eight years before they finally agreed to carry bidet toilets," said Steve Scheer, president of Brondell, a company that has been making high-tech models like the Swash toilet seat since 2003.

Toto's top-of-the-line Neorest toilet,

a tankless wonder with all the gizmos, comes out this fall priced at around \$10,000. Most high-tech seats with important features such as a retractable wand and a drier cost between \$450 and \$1,800, and some basic water-cleansing models made by lesser-known companies now sell for less than \$40.

"It's a very experience-driven product, and is hard to explain to someone who's never tried a high-tech toilet.

But the taboo is definitely beginning to lift," Scheer said.

There are roughly 1.5 million high-tech seats in use in the United States, and millions more featuring more basic, non-electric, water-cleansing methods such as attachments and sprayers.

Toilets at Google's California campus have been equipped with high-tech Toto seats, according to the company. And

Brondell's Swash 1000 will be a standard option on Gulfstream's new G650 jets, Scheer said.

So far, the seats seem most popular in larger cities on the East and West coasts, and in areas with large Hispanic populations. They seem to be gaining ground quickly among baby boomers and those who care for the elderly, as well as those interested in environmentally friendly products.

## NATION

## More than 100 found in house in Texas

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A house overflowing with more than 100 people presumed to be in the U.S. illegally was uncovered just outside Houston on Wednesday, a police spokesman said.

The suspected stash house was found during a search for a 24-year-old woman and her two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy, that were reported missing by relatives late Tuesday after a man failed to meet them as planned at an undisclosed location on the city's north side, said John Cannon, a spokesman for the Houston Police Department. Many of the people in home that authorities said appeared to be part of a human smuggling operation were dressed only in undergarments and they were sitting in filthy conditions and surrounded by trash bags full of old clothing, Cannon said.

When police opened the door to the home, they found "a large, large group of people, some sitting on top of one another, very



CODY DUTY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

**People wait outside a house as authorities investigate Wednesday in Houston.**

confined spaces," Cannon said. "They yell out the woman's name to see if she is in there, and she emerges with the two children. They're OK."

The single-family home, in southern Harris County, is about 1,500 square feet, Cannon said. At first, officers saw only a mattress on the floor and a refrigerator in an exterior room. It was when they went further into the house that they found the people — 94 men, all in their undergarments and shoeless, 15 women and the woman with her two children — lying in filth in several small

bedrooms, all with access to one bathroom and no hot water. Many of the women said they had been in the house for three or four days, Cannon said. One woman said she had been there for 15 days. All of them said they were hungry, thirsty and tired.

Authorities said five men have been arrested.

## Former Marine's death in hot cell investigated

By JAKE PEARSON  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investigators are probing how a mentally ill, homeless New York City veteran died last month in a jail cell that city officials

told The Associated Press had overheated to at least 100 degrees Fahrenheit, apparently because of malfunctioning equipment.

Acting Department of Correction Commissioner Mark Cranston said in a statement Wednesday that investigators were looking at the circumstances surrounding Jerome Murdough's "unfortunate death."

"While we cannot comment on the facts surrounding his death

while the investigation is underway, preliminary information suggests there were unusually high temperatures in Mr. Murdough's cell," he said.

Four city officials told the AP that the former Marine was on antipsychotic and anti-seizure medication, which may have made him more vulnerable to heat. He also apparently did not open a small vent in his cell, as other inmates did, to let in cool air.

"He basically baked to death," said one of the officials, who all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to discuss specifics of the case.

The medical examiner's office said an autopsy was inconclusive and that more tests were needed to determine Murdough's exact cause of death. But the officials, all with detailed knowledge of the case, say initial indications from the autopsy and investigation point to extreme dehydration or heat stroke.

The department said it had addressed two contributing factors

an outside consultant identified as causing the excess heat. It also said temperature checks immediately after the death revealed that several cells nearby were over 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Murdough, 56, was arrested Feb. 7 on a misdemeanor trespassing charge for sleeping in an enclosed stairwell on the roof of a public housing building in Harlem and was sent to Rikers after being unable to post a \$2,500 bail, court records show. He was found dead in his cell in a special unit for inmates with mental illnesses a week later, in the early hours of Feb. 15, the officials said.

Advocates for mentally ill inmates say Murdough's death represents the failure of the city's justice system on almost every level: by arresting him instead of finding him help, by setting bail at a prohibitive \$2,500 and by not supervising him closely in what is supposed to be a special observation unit for inmates with mental illnesses.



Murdough

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## NATION

# Court reverses rulings in aiding-suicide case

By AMY FORLITI  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A U.S. court reversed the convictions of a former nurse accused of searching the Internet for suicidal people and encouraging two to kill themselves, ruling Wednesday that part of a law banning someone from "encouraging" suicide is unconstitutional.

William Melchert-Dinkel was convicted in 2011 of two counts of aiding suicide, after a judge found he "intentionally advised and encouraged" an English man and a Canadian woman to take their own lives.

But the Minnesota Supreme Court found that language in state law that makes it illegal to "advise" or "encourage" suicide is too broad and encompasses speech that expresses a viewpoint and is protected under the First Amendment.

However, the justices upheld part of the law that makes it a crime to "assist" in someone's suicide — and said speech could be considered assisting. Since the lower court judge did not issue a ruling on "assisting" suicide, Melchert-Dinkel's case was sent back to that judge for further consideration.

**'We've never pretended that the actions that he did should be condoned or should be admired ... but constitutionally, he was not in the wrong.'**

Terry Watkins

William Melchert-Dinkel's attorney

"It's a legal system; it's not a justice system. The two are completely different," said Deborah Chevalier, the mother of the Canadian woman. "At the very least, the world knows what he's done. His friends, his family know what he's done. He can't run away from that."

Evidence in the Melchert-Dinkel case showed he was obsessed with suicide and sought out depressed people online. When he found them, he posed as a suicidal female nurse, feigning compassion and offering step-by-step instructions on how they could kill themselves.

Melchert-Dinkel told police he did it for the "thrill of the chase." According to court documents, he acknowledged participating in online chats about suicide with up to 20 people and entering into

fake suicide pacts with about 10, five of whom he believed killed themselves.

He was convicted in the deaths of Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ontario, and Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England. Kajouji jumped into a frozen river in 2008, and Drybrough hanged himself in 2005.

He was sentenced to 360 days in jail, but that was put on hold and he has remained free while the appeal was pending.

Melchert-Dinkel's attorney, Terry Watkins, said he doesn't believe there's enough evidence to prove his client assisted in the deaths.

"We've never pretended that the actions that he did should be condoned or should be admired ... but constitutionally, he was not in the wrong," Watkins said.

## Official says approving NSA searches individually would overburden court

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A senior government lawyer said Wednesday that the high volume of searches that the National Security Agency makes of a database that holds Americans' and foreigners' communications would make court approval for queries involving Americans impractical.

Appearing before the government's civil liberties watchdog panel, Robert Litt, general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said "the number of times we query" the

database for information "is considerably larger" than 288. That's the number of queries made for a different type of data in a separate NSA program that Litt used as a comparison.

Requiring court sign-off for queries of Americans' emails and phone calls had been the suggestion of a White House review panel on government surveillance activities as well as a number of lawmakers who are seeking changes to intelligence programs.

But Litt told the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board,

an independent watchdog agency, that "the operational burden" would be so great that he suspects the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which oversees the program, "would be extremely unhappy if they were required to approve every such query."

Replied board member and former federal judge, Patricia Wald: "I suppose the ultimate question for us is whether or not the inconvenience to the agencies or even the unhappiness of the [surveillance] court would be the ultimate criteria."

## Weight Loss & Cosmetic Surgery

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THE NEW SANNO



## WORLD

# Suicide attack in Baghdad cafe kills 12

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber struck inside a Baghdad cafe overnight where customers were watching a soccer game on TV, killing at least 12 people and wounding 38, Iraqi officials said Thursday.

The attack in the western Washaash neighborhood took place late on Wednesday night, two police officers said.

The bomber had mingled with the cafe crowd and set off his explosives-laden belt as they watched the game.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraq has been struck by a surge in violence unseen since 2007, relentless attacks that have become the Shiite-led government's most serious challenge.

Violence has spiked since last April, when security forces cracked down on a Sunni protest camp north of Baghdad in clashes that left 45 dead.

Scores of people have been killed in the Iraqi capital, in recent attacks that have targeted

busy areas, restaurants and other public places.

On Tuesday, a series of bombings struck both commercial streets and security forces in Baghdad and its surroundings, killing 15 people.

No one has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, but they bear the hallmarks of an al-Qaida breakaway group that frequently uses car bombs and suicide attacks to target public areas such as cafes, restaurants, mosques and markets to undermine the government's efforts to maintain security in the country.



An Iraqi policeman uses a bomb detection device to examine a flag-draped coffin during a funeral procession in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, on Thursday.

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## WORLD



SVEN HOPPE, DPA/AP

### Twins make their debut

Two 14-week old polar bear twins explore their enclosure at the Hellabrunn zoo in Munich, Germany, on Wednesday. The cubs, born on Dec. 9, were presented to the public for the first time.

## Syria closes Lebanon border amid fighting

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian troops closed a border crossing with Lebanon on Thursday amid heavy clashes with rebels in the area that activists said killed 12 people.

The fighting forced dozens of wounded to pour across the volatile boundary to seek help on the Lebanese side, officials and activists said.

The fighting on the Syrian side was so intense that stray bullets and rockets landed on the Lebanese side, in the region of Wadi Khaled, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency.

A Lebanese man in Wadi Khaled was wounded and rushed to a nearby hospital, the report said.

The NNA said Syrian government forces closed the Bqaiia crossing because of the fighting earlier on Thursday. Some stray bullets hit a Lebanese army checkpoint and two homes caught fire and burned in Lebanon, the report also said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fighting concentrated in

and around the Syrian village of al-Hosn, where 12 people were killed on Thursday.

The Observatory's chief, Rami Abdulrahman, said it was not clear if those killed were civilians or rebel fighters.

Syria's news agency SANA said "a number of terrorists were killed" as they tried to flee from al-Hosn toward Lebanon. Syrian authorities refer to opposition fighters as terrorists.

George Kittaneh, head of Lebanese Red Cross operations, told Lebanon's LBC television that about 45 wounded people were brought across the border into Lebanon for treatment.

Syrian troops backed by fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah group have been on the offensive over the past months in areas close to the Lebanese border, aiming to cut rebel supply lines across the porous boundary.

Another Wadi Khaled resident, Ahmad al-Fahel, told The Associated Press over the telephone that schools were closed in areas close to the border and that some residents fled their homes to safer areas.

### Indian court convicts 5 in Mumbai gang rapes

NEW DELHI — An Indian court convicted five men Thursday for raping a photojournalist and a call-center operator last summer inside an abandoned textile mill in the financial hub of Mumbai, cases that renewed calls to wipe out the scourge of sexual violence in India.

The rapes happened about a month apart in the same abandoned mill in the Lower Parel section of Mumbai, where luxury

malls and condominiums stand alongside sprawling slums. Three of the men were convicted in both cases.

"(I) hope this verdict will act as a deterrent," said Maharashtra Home Minister R. R. Patil, saying the cases were tried in the "fastest possible time."

The men face 20 years to life in prison, prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said. Sentencing was expected on Friday. Two minors are being tried separately by a juvenile court.

From The Associated Press

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## FAITH

# Popular pontiff

## Catholics reflect on first year of 'people's pope'

By LORNET TURNBULL  
The Seattle Times

**SEATTLE**  
In November, the priest at Assumption Catholic Church in North Seattle mailed a letter of welcome to parishioners, including members long dormant — those divorced and remarried, gay, tired or simply disillusioned.

"We are living in exciting times," Father Oliver Duggan told them. "Our church, which so many had written off as not relevant in this time and age, has suddenly come to life."

For this he credited Pope Francis for not only inspiring his own pastoral work but for breathing new life into the Roman Catholic Church. While the new pontiff hasn't changed church teachings, the father wrote, "he has been applying those teachings in a loving and caring way."

A year after Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio stepped onto the balcony at St. Peter's Basilica to present himself to the world as Pope Francis, Duggan's words stand as testament for many — Catholics and non-Catholics — who believe this "people's pope" has shifted the tone and softened the image of the 1.2 billion-member church.

To be sure, the pontiff's actions and remarks in his inaugural year — from challenging trickle-down economic theories, to reforming Vatican bureaucracy to urging church leaders to stop their obsessions over hot-button social issues — have done nothing to change doctrine.

Francis still says "no," but in a kinder, gentler way, to some of the church's more complicated and thorny issues around reproductive rights, sexuality, married priests and women's role in the church — issues especially polarizing in the American Catholic church.

Just last week, while still maintaining the church's firm position on marriage, he called on its leaders to explore how civil unions might provide health-care and economic benefits for same-sex couples.

"I don't believe he will change doctrine; that won't happen," said Sharon Hanses, 79, a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, Wash.

"But I do believe he's changing hearts."

Almost from the start, the Argentine and first Jesuit pope grabbed the world's attention for being the most relatable in modern history: tooling around Vatican City in a 30-year-old Renault, washing the feet of female convicts, posing for selfies with visitors to the Vatican.

Francis eschewed the spacious apartments of his predecessors to live instead in a small suite in a Vatican guesthouse.

Named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 2013, as well as Man of the Year for the LGBT magazine The Advocate, he is hailed as the most influential world leader on Twitter with more than 3.7 million followers and is the most talked-about person on the Internet.

The first non-European pope in more than 1,200 years, Francis has made strong pronouncements about income inequality and treatment of the poor, and in his homily at a Mass on Ash Wednesday, said the



JOHN LOK, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

**Stephen Dofelmier, left, returned to Assumption Catholic Church in North Seattle after receiving a letter from Father Oliver Duggan, right, who was inspired by Pope Francis' conciliatory tone and invited dormant parishioners back.**

best way to give was to not expect anything in return.

He has spoken out against careerism in the church and the Vatican, and called for a "synod on the Family" this fall after ordering a survey of Catholics on a range of social issues — from same-sex marriage and unwed cohabitation to contraception, and the place of divorced and remarried people in the church.

Perhaps the most quoted words of his papacy, "Who am I to judge?" have given hope to gay Catholics alienated by the church and became the rallying cry for students at a Catholic school in Sammamish, Wash., who saw injustice in the December firing of their gay vice principal after he married his husband.

"Personally, I think he's a saint," said Stephen Dofelmier of the pope. Dofelmier grew up in the church, left after getting a divorce but returned to Assumption after receiving one of Father Duggan's "welcome back" letters.

Even after his first marriage was annulled by the church and his second marriage recognized by the church 10 years ago, Dofelmier said he still didn't feel comfortable going back, given the continued hard line on a range of matters.

Duggan's letter, he said, re-energized him and allowed him to see that change was possible — not just in liturgy but around the idea of being a good Christian. "I feel like I'm coming back to a kinder church," Dofelmier said. "I admire this pope, particularly his humanness."

Yet for all the good feelings Francis' papacy is generating — from within the halls of the nation's Catholic schools to Catholic-run charities — some say the pope has failed to fully address some of the deep conflicts within the church.

The new pope, they say, has rarely spoken about priest sex abuse, and three months after Francis created a commission of experts to study the best ways to protect children, no members have been appointed and no action taken.

In an interview with an Italian daily last week, Francis struck back, insisting that despite its transparency and responsibility, the church has repeatedly been criticized.

While his polling numbers far surpass those of the church he leads, in some cases reaching levels that would make him the envy of politicians, none of it appears to be bringing members back to the pews, according to a recent Pew Research Center report.

John Schuster is a former priest who lives in Port Orchard, Wash., and heads a chapter of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP); he still meets with victims today.

"He's pretty much a PR pope," Schuster said. "His hype and all his nice words are not matching his actions. He's starting to show cracks in his message, and people are going to hold him accountable."

Others prefer to believe that Francis is laying the foundation for changes yet to come, including his recent appointment of 19 new cardinals — his closest advisers in shaping church policy — all from throughout the developing world.

Pope Francis  
AP

Named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 2013, as well as Man of the Year for the LGBT magazine The Advocate, he is hailed as the most influential world leader on Twitter with more than 3.7 million followers and is the most talked-about person on the Internet.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## County says toilets in tree are not art

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — El Paso County Code Enforcement officers are agreeing with neighbors who say several toilets hanging from a tree in a community near Colorado Springs are not art.

El Paso County Code Enforcement Officer Gayle Jackson is disputing claims by an unidentified homeowner who says the toilets are works of art and will be used as bird feeders. The man said he will take the commodes down, but he still plans to keep them on his property. So far, no citations have been issued.

According to KRDO-TV, the county says the rubbish ordinance is designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare of citizens by eliminating and controlling rubbish in the county, which can also hurt the community's image.

## Restrictions sought on lottery winnings

**MA** BOSTON — State Treasurer Steven Grossman has offered legislative leaders help in crafting a law to bar lottery winners from using their windfall to commit crimes.

The Boston Herald reported that Grossman's offer comes days after police say a convicted sex offender who won a \$10 million lottery prize used winnings to gain the trust of a boy he allegedly molested, then to buy his silence.

Grossman's letter to Senate President Theresa Murray and House Speaker Robert DeLeo said such a bill should bar lottery winners from using prizes "to support criminal activities or threaten the safety and well-being of others."

DeLeo's spokesman said he received Grossman's letter and "will consider options moving forward."

## Man arrested after exceeding talking limit

**MI** BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP — A Michigan man has been arrested after authorities say he refused to stop talking past a three-minute time limit for public comment at a township board meeting.

Adams was arraigned Friday in Saginaw District Court on a felony charge of resisting and obstructing a police officer and a misdemeanor count of disturbing the peace.

Adams was arrested at the March 4 meeting by three Bridgeport Township police officers. Authorities said he refused to stop talking when township officials told him to do so.

The resisting and obstructing charge carries a maximum penalty of two years behind bars.

## Zoo rethinking polices after free-day fights

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Kansas City Zoo officials say they will review their policies after a number of fights broke out during a free day at the



SUE BEYER, THE EXPRESS-TIMES (LEHIGH VALLEY, PA.)/AP

## Spring break busted

Students at Northampton Community College walk past an island drink station set up by dining services at the Bethlehem, Pa. school. The students are protesting the cancellation of spring break by wearing flip-flops, bathing suits and tank tops to class. Protest organizer John Cronce, 20, was a bit disappointed in the turnout of about 15 people. "Most of the campus is looking at us like we're nuts," Cronce said. "It would be nice if there were more girls."

zoo, punctuated by shots fired near the parking lot as police tried to get the mayhem under control.

The Kansas City Star reported there were no gunshot injuries Tuesday, but witnesses said they feared for their lives as chaos broke out around them as they were trying to leave.

The zoo offers four free days a year as part of a promise to voters in Clay and Jackson counties in return for approving a one-eighth-cent zoo sales tax in 2011. Similar fights broke out last year during a free day in April, prompting the zoo to move the events from weekends to Tuesdays this year.

## Garfield toy deemed partial cause of wreck

**NJ** TRENTON — The estate of a New Jersey woman injured by a car has been awarded damages after a jury determined that a stuffed animal hanging from the driver's rearview mirror contributed to the accident.

The Times of Trenton reported the jury awarded Ellen Henkle's estate \$378,000 on Monday after finding that the driver that struck her was negligent in part due to a Garfield stuffed animal block-

ing his vision.

Henkle, who lived in Hamilton and was 52 at the time of the accident, required multiple surgeries and was disabled from the March 9, 2006 crash.

She died four years later of natural causes.

Hamilton resident Thomas Hill struck Henkle with his vehicle while making a lane change.

## Sheriff: Person drowns while riding horse

**OK** CHICKASHA — Authorities in Grady County are investigating after a person drowned while riding a horse.

According to Oklahoma City television station KOKH, witnesses told police that a person rode a horse into a pond and both went underwater.

The witnesses said the horse came back up but the rider never surfaced. A dive team discovered the victim's body later Tuesday.

Authorities have not yet released the victim's name.

## Couple save falling toddler with mattress

**CA** LOS ANGELES — The couple who saved a 3-

year-old boy just as he tumbled out of a third-story window in Burbank, Calif., described the harrowing split-second actions that cushioned his fall.

Konrad Lightner and his wife, Jennifer, were carrying their box-spring mattress out Sunday when they saw the toddler throw his leg over the window sill, his toys tumbled to the ground below.

"Once we saw that his leg was going over the window, Jenny called police," Konrad said in an interview with KTLA-TV.

After the boy got out, he clung to a telephone wire outside the window, spurring a split-second decision by the Lightners to position their box spring mattress below.

"He started crying, and I knew he couldn't make it back to the window, so I just started getting ready for him to let go," Konrad Lightner said. Forty seconds later the boy let go of the wire and fell about 30 feet into the arms of Lightner, who used the mattress as a sort of landing pad.

The toddler's mother, Morgane Milligan, told KTLA that he had apparently pushed out the window screen and "decided it was really fun to throw toys out there." He did not suffer any major injuries.

## THE CENSUS

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under an ordinance approved Tuesday by the Iberville Parish Council in Louisiana. The ordinance was drawn up in response to complaints from residents about the practice — what some young people call a fashion — and is being viewed as a safety issue. "For instance, if somebody asks somebody to pull their pants up and it starts an argument or a fight, it can get out of hand," council member Louis Kelley said. "Now they can call the Sheriff's Office and they can handle it. You don't have to get into a shouting match."



From wire reports

## WEEKEND



'Plants vs. Zombies:  
Garden Warfare'

Page 26

## Eclectic collection

Kinder Museum  
in Frankfurt,  
Germany, offers  
a wide variety  
of curiosities

Europe travel, Page 30

## Go take a dirt nap

Being buried  
in the hot sand  
of Beppu, Japan,  
can be quite  
relaxing

Pacific travel, Page 37

# JOY RIDE

Aaron Paul chooses to have fun  
in his first role after 'Breaking Bad' » Page 25

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

## Marvel creating digital timeline

BY MATT MOORE  
The Associated Press

From the Golden Age to Ultimate Human Torch, characters sprung from Marvel Entertainment are as varied as the people who read, watch, listen and even play them in video games.

The publisher of Marvel Comics is focusing on its panoply of characters, enlisting writers, artists, editors and historians to build a sprawling digital and interactive timeline that shows cases the famous, the infamous and the obscure heroes, villains and others.

The endeavor is part of Marvel's celebration of its 75th anniversary, said editor-in-chief Axel Alonso, and to make people aware of more than marquee names like Captain America or Spider-Man.

"We want it to be as friendly to people who come out of the Cineplex to people who have long boxes in their basement," he said this week of the site at [www.marvel.com/75](http://www.marvel.com/75). "It's time for us to underline that and show our rich history."

The site, which goes live in April, features interactive timelines, interviews with classic writers and artists — including Stan Lee and Roy Thomas — along with contemporary ones like Dan Slott, Kelly Sue DeConnick and Brian

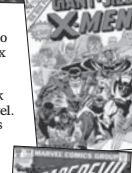
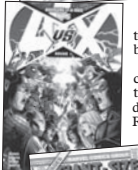
Michael Bendis, among others.

"The Web gives us the capability to do things differently, daily and across platforms — audio, video, picture galleries, lists — with all the characters and the creators," said Ben Morse, editor of Marvel's website and an architect of the initiative. "We're looking at the characters, the history and the major stories from different perspectives than we normally would."

In most cases, promotion is about what is to come — a new Rocket Raccoon comic or a Big Hero Six film. The 75th anniversary site is about looking back and taking stock.

"This is an opportunity to celebrate what's come before," Morse said. Part of the interactive component is breaking the company's history into different eras, said Matt Robinson, Marvel's art director for digital, to have content from "over the years, from the beginning of Marvel all the way to the present day" focusing on each decade.

"That word spread is why we did it by era, so that we could highlight even those that may not be prominent and still give them their due," he said. That will help them lavish attention on every era from the Golden Age of the late 1930s and 1940s to the Silver Age and the creation of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the rise of the X-Men and contemporary characters, too.



**ON THE COVER:** Aaron Paul plays a vengeful street racer framed for a crime he didn't commit in "Need for Speed."

DEANWORKS II/AP

## GADGET WATCH



The ProGear Vault CE3180 case essentially provides a suit of armor for the iPad mini.

## Military-rated case keeps iPads safe

By GREGG ELLMAN  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Once you have your iPad Air or mini in Pelican's ProGear Vault case, you can be sure it's safe.

The case's rubber seals and aircraft-grade aluminum offer effective protection from drops, bangs, water or weather.

Inside the folio-styled case, your iPad is encased in an elastomeric copolymer rubber to absorb the impact when it falls or hits a hard surface.

The case is rated IP54 for water resistance and momentary immersion, and meets Military Specification Test Standards 810G to survive a 4-foot drop.

Cosmetically, the case is a hard plastic, for which Pelican is famous. You might think that with all this protection it is like carrying around a 10-pound weight, but that's far from the case.

It measures 10.25 by 8 by ¾ inches and weighs just 1.4 pounds, which does not add much weight to the existing tablet considering what the case will do for you.

Setup is required; to install your iPad and then screw them back in for proper installation.

Once installed, you'll still have full access to all your buttons and ports. The case can even stand on its own on flat surfaces.

It's available in black and gray along with a mixture of white, orange and magenta.

Online: [pelican.com](http://pelican.com); \$99.95 for the Air, \$79.95 for the mini version

The Top Dawg DashCam might not help you prove you didn't run that red light, but I'm guessing it would be a great help if someone runs a light and rams into you.

I'll get to the camera performance, but first here are some of the specs. Video is recorded in AVI formats 848 x 480 @ 15fps or 1280 x 720 @ 30fps while JPGs are 250 x 194.

An 8GB SD card is included, but you can use your own up to 32GB. The camera has an angle of view of 120 degrees, there's a built-in microphone, USB 2.0 connection, 560mAh Li-Poly-

mer rechargeable battery (up to 5 hours) and a 2.0 MPX CMOS sensor with night vision.

That's a whole lot crammed into this camera, and it performs well. If you expect great HD quality images to show on your 80-inch flat screen TV, this isn't for you. But if you want a solid dash cam, then this is your guy.

The camera has a plastic shell, a 2.5-inch pop-up display on the camera, which measures 4.5 by 2.5 by 1 inches (with camera folded down) and weighs about 3 ounces, without a mount.

Included with the camera is a mount, battery, RCA cable and a 12V cable (to plug into the cigarette lighter). Online: [topdawgelectronics.com](http://topdawgelectronics.com), \$55.49 on Amazon.com

The Boq Mirrorless is the latest addition to the Python collection of storage solutions for photographers.

The exterior of the bag is a durable 1680-denier ballistic nylon treated with a water-repelling coating.

A shoulder strap lets you carry it, and the strap tucks away in the back pouch if you prefer to carry it with the top-side hand strap.

While it's designed and named for a mirrorless camera, it will support and hold whatever you can put in it. I tried it with a standard SLR, mid-range zoom, flash and a few other accessories, which all fit just fine.

It has four zippered pockets and a front slide-in pouch. The main compartment has Velcro dividers so you can adjust it specifically to your camera equipment. One of the side zippered pockets has a key holder with a quick release and stretchable dividers.

A great — and unusual — feature is an ID plate embedded with a unique serial number in the front pouch, which you register at territorial.com in case you lose the bag. Online: [boobags.com](http://boobags.com); \$80

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for March 19:

1. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
2. "All of Me," John Legend
3. "The Man," Aloe Blacc
4. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry (feat. Juicy J)
5. "Let It Go," Idina Menzel
6. "Talk a Little," Jason Derulo (feat. 2 Chainz)
7. "S.E.L.I.F.E., The Chainsmokers
8. "Pompeii," Bastille
9. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
10. "This Is How We Roll," Florida Georgia Line (feat. Brantley

— Compiled by MCT

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for March 10-16:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
3. John Legend, "All of Me"
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Beyonce, "Drunk in Love"
6. Lorde, "Team"
7. Pitbull, "Timber"
8. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"
9. Pharrell Williams, "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2")
10. Various Artists, "Let It Go"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for March 19:

1. "Frozen"
2. "American Hustle"
3. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
4. "Saving Mr. Banks"
5. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
6. "Veronica Mars"
7. "12 Years a Slave"
8. "47 Ronin"
9. "A.C.O.D."
10. "Dallas Buyers Club"

— Compiled by MCT

## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine ranks the top 10 handheld games for March:

1. "Danganronpa: Trigger Happy Havoc," Vita
2. "Professor Layton and the Azran Legacy," 3DS
3. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Vita
4. "Bravely Default," 3DS
5. "OlliOlli," Vita
6. "Terraria," Vita
7. "The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds," 3DS
8. "Pokemon X/Y," 3DS
9. "TaK," Vita
10. "Inazuma Eleven," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

## APPS

Top 5 new free apps for March 19:

- ANDROID
1. Smash Hit
  2. FRONTLINE COMMANDO 2
  3. QuizUp
  4. Road Smash: Crazy Racing!
  5. Royal Revolt 2

Top 5 free apps for March 19:

- APPLE
1. Smash Hit
  2. CBS Sports
  3. ESPN Tournament Challenge
  4. Crazy Taxi
  5. The Impossible Flappy Game — The Adventure of a Tiny Bird

— Compiled by MCT



## WEEKEND

## CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

See start of second  
'Captain America'

This year's premiere Marvel movie is "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." It's received a lot of positive buzz, and seems sure to rank among Marvel's best standalone movies to date. The studio released the first 10 minutes of the film this week — worth watching just for the gorgeous shots of Washington, D.C., in the background. As described by buzzfeed.com, the story features a three-pronged attack team of Captain America, The Black Widow and Falcon, and introduces a new nemesis. Steve Rogers' espionage skills are also put to the test.

- Watch it at [tinyurl.com/q5nbxz9](http://tinyurl.com/q5nbxz9)

Chris Evans plays Steve Rogers in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which hits theaters in early April.

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP



2

Rent a double dose  
of Disney flicks

One hit movie from the Mouse House, and one about it, were released this week on DVD. Academy Award-winning "Frozen" is a must for parents of youngsters, and "Saving Mr. Banks" is a treat for fans of behind-the-scenes wrangling. Tom Hanks stars as Walt Disney and Emma Thompson plays P.L. Travers. The movie centers on Disney's determination to get the movie rights to "Mary Poppins," and the reasons for Travers' resistance.

- More new-to-DVD releases on Page 39



3

See your child's face  
on an AFN broadcast

April is Month of the Military Child, and AFN is looking for photos of children to grace the airwaves. You've got from now until April 8 to share your child's photo.

- To participate, go to [myafn.net](http://myafn.net), click on Month of the Military Child, fill out the form and attach your photo.



4

Walken's dance moves  
through the years

Actor Christopher Walken is probably best known for his halting vocal delivery. But as legions of devout Walken fans know, the man's got moves. He's also made a whole lot of movies, many of which included Walken's dance stylings. Finally, someone — the Huffington Post, specifically — cobbled these gems into an almost five-minute super-cut of fabulous footwork. It's set to "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)," for an extra punch of awesome.



- Watch it at [tinyurl.com/walkendance](http://tinyurl.com/walkendance)

# WEEKEND: MOVIES



## Art imitating life

Tyler Perry's aunt inspiration for new film

BY RICK BENTLEY  
The Fresno Bee

**A**t 5 years old, Tyler Perry knew that he wanted to be so successful when he grew up that he could take care of his mother. His determination never wavered, and he's now one of the most prolific writer/director/actors working, with multiple TV series on the air and his latest movie, "The Single Moms Club."

It wasn't until his mother, Willie Maxine Perry, died in 2009, that Perry realized striving for success just for his mother wasn't the wisest thing to do.

"I did everything for my mother. I sacrificed my entire life for her. It worked out because I drove me to success because I wanted to be the kid who made it. But when my mother died, it left me so empty. I didn't have any of this on my own. There was no success for myself," Perry says. "It was great. I had it. But, it was all about her. So I had to find a way to refocus."

The result of that focus is "The Single Moms Club," which looks at five women — played by Nia Long, Cocoa Brown, Amy Smart, Wendi McLendon-Covey and Zuley Henao — from different backgrounds who are pushed together. They soon discover they have one thing in common: raising children on their own.

It was Perry's aunt who served as the inspiration for "The Single Moms Club."

"My aunt raised four boys by herself. She never took welfare a day in her life. She never begged anybody for anything.

But she always made it her own way," Perry says. "She raised these four boys by herself. I started thinking about her life. This is my homage to her and every single mother out there."

Perry says "Single Moms Club" isn't a "woe is me" movie about single mothers. He's written about a group of women who are doing what they have to do for their kids and the support they give each other. He's a strong believer in the idea that it takes a village to raise a child.

Family is a familiar theme for a Perry movie. Although he's heard complaints that all of his movies have a similar voice, he thinks each one has had something different to say. What they often say reflects Perry's Christian beliefs, whether it be full-blown comedy like any of the "Madea" movies or something that has a more dramatic edge such as "The Single Mom's Club."

"I usually like to do something really stupid and silly and fun after I have done something really heavy. I remember thinking after shooting 'For Colored Girls' and 'Alex Cross' that this was really dark and taking me down too far. So I wanted to do something that was really, really fun," Perry says. "It's all about where I am in my own head where I just need a break."

"With this movie, I just thought this was a subject that needed to be addressed. It is the last film I'm going to be doing for a couple of years so I can focus on television. So I wanted to take a break with something that I hoped would be inspiring and encouraging to a lot of people."

Tyler Perry says his new film, "The Single Moms Club," will be his last for a while.

K C BAILEY, LIONSGATE/AP

## 'The Single Moms Club' is pleasurable Perry

BY RICK BENTLEY  
The Fresno Bee

**I**t's understandable why director/writer/actor Tyler Perry has continually gone back to his female comedy persona of Madea. Put that loud and brash character in a film and it makes big money.

For "The Single Moms Club," Perry trades the over-the-top antics of Madea for a sometimes serious — and often funny — look at what it means to be a single mom as seen through the perspective of a variety of women. Although Perry does offer a couple of Madea moments through the character played by Cocoa Brown, the film generally is an interesting look at a group of MILKs (Moms I'd Like to Know).

Five women — brought together by the antics of their preteen kids at private school — must set aside their differences to work on a school fundraiser as penitence for the crimes of their children. It starts out with a clash — like trying to mix oil, water, vinegar, cider and pure grain alcohol. Perry manages to find a way to blend these elements into one pleasing concoction.

Wendi McLendon-Covey, who normally

### New on base

"The Single Moms Club" is playing at:

#### Europe

Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

#### Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: thesinglemomsclub.com

plays bigger-than-life characters, turns in a controlled — and still funny — performance as Jan, a book editor whose determination to have it all meant losing a connection with her daughter. Amy Smart's Hilary is trying to reconnect with her daughter while going through a messy divorce. And Brown's Lytia is dealing with the daily fear that her young-est son will be pulled into the criminal life that's already cost her two offspring.

Finally, there's Zuley Henao's Esperanza, a woman who continues to be dominated by her ex-husband, and Nia Long's May, who finds her son pulling away.

Despite the large cast, Perry manages to serve the individual stories while bringing the group together for the better moments in the film. Perry shows equal skill managing dramatic and silly scenes.

The movie works because it isn't an endless string of male bashing. These are women who are facing the challenges of not having a man in their lives, but they don't use that as a crutch. They are strong women who, through the support of each other, find a way to deal with the financial, emotional, social and sexual hardships that come with being alone.

Perry tosses in comedic moments when the tension gets too intense, but he doesn't do it at the sake of any of the characters. This is a movie about five interesting — and funny — women dealing with real-world problems.

Perry plans to take a break from movies, but when he returns he should consider making more like "The Single Moms Club."

"The Single Moms Club" is rated PG-13 for sexual content. Running time: 111 minutes.

**BROADWAY**  
... KINO ...  
MOVIE MAGIC

(Digital 3D)

Ramstein-Süd / Landstuhl  
For Reservations & Informations call 06271-927037  
Verl. Antennem. AG, c/o IT (Landstuhl)  
Merkurstraße 9, 68877 Ramstein - Miesbach

THEATRES: THX, EX and Digital Sound

**THUR MAR 20 WED MAR 26**

In Digital 3D: Need for Speed (PG13)  
Thur 20:30, Sat 20:30, Mon-Wed 20:30  
In Digital 3D: 300: Rise of an Empire (R)  
Thur - Thur 18:00  
Divergent (PG13) Fri 15:45, 17:30, 20:00,  
22:30, Sat 12:00, 15:30, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30,  
Sun 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 20:00, Mon - Wed  
16:00, 17:45, 20:30  
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG) Thur  
16:00, Fri 15:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon -  
Wed 16:00  
Non-Stop (PG13) Thur 18:30, Fri - Sun  
18:15, Mon - Wed 18:30  
In 2D: 300: Rise of an Empire (R) Thur  
16:00, 20:30, Fri 15:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sat  
13:30, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 20:15, Mon  
16:00, 20:30, Wed 20:30  
In 2D: Need for Speed (PG13) Thur  
16:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 17:45, 22:30, Sun  
17:45, Mon - Wed 18:00  
Also showing: The Lego Movie, The  
Monuments Men

Scan Here or  
visit: [www.broadwaykino.com/kmc](http://www.broadwaykino.com/kmc)

Check movie listings for base theaters at [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

## The need for fun

‘Breaking Bad’s’ Aaron Paul takes on lighter role in racing game-inspired film

By JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

When Aaron Paul received the script for “Need for Speed,” he had very little interest in even reading the story, let alone taking a starring role in the movie.

He saw the title and immediately envisioned another poorly done video game adaptation. Or worse, a car film desperately trying to become a franchise. “When I saw ‘Need for Speed,’ I just instantly thought, this is a ‘Fast & Furious’ rip-off. This is going to be God-awful,” Paul said in an interview with The Associated Press. “Let’s be honest — everyone going into this movie is going to expect to see something similar to ‘Fast & Furious.’ That’s fine. The ‘Fast & Furious’ movies, they’ve made six of them, they are on the seventh, they are fun to watch, they are popcorn movies and I have nothing against them.

“But I didn’t want to jump into something like that.” Paul ultimately decided to read the script, which is based on the popular EA Entertainment racing game, and found himself surprisingly intrigued by the story of a street racer framed for a crime he didn’t commit. He seeks his revenge while taking a cross-country trip in a custom-built Ford Mustang, which he hopes to enter in an underground and illegal street race called the De Leon.

Paul was hooked and signed on for the project in 2012, as he was preparing for his final season as Jesse Pinkman on “Breaking Bad.”

“I just had such a fun time reading this film, just flipping the pages,” he said. “It was just a fun ride and after doing a show for so long that I was so proud to be a part of, but it was also emotionally exhausting, just so heavy every single day. I wanted to do something that was a little bit lighter, and this was that.”

Paul got his wish in a campy film with cliché-filled dialogue and a predictable plot. But the movie also features several European super cars, and Paul got to do most of his own driving.

He trained at Willow Springs International Raceway, driving from Los Angeles before dawn for lessons that lasted up to 10 hours a day.

“From the moment the sun starts peeking up, I am there all day long, learning how to maneuver these cars,” Paul said. “It was learning how to get out of problematic situations, and then I go to learn how to do all the fun stuff: driving the car backward at really high speeds, flipping the car around in a reverse 180 and going through stunt courses. It was so much fun. I loved every minute of it. It never felt dangerous.”

Paul did many of his own stunts, but said professionals were brought in for “the real heavy lifting” and Paul was only in scenes where the driving didn’t exceed 130 mph. Director Scott Waugh insisted that all the action sequences and wrecks be done live and did not rely on the use of CGI or a green screen.

Both Paul and Waugh bill “Need for Speed” as an homage to classic car flicks. They cite “Bullitt” and “Vanishing Point” and even “Smokey & The Bandit” as inspirations.

So Waugh went into the film trying to give it a “Steve McQueen style of filmmaking,” as in when a camera would pull up right next to a car in a McQueen film so the audience could see the actor in the driver’s seat. That was in his mind during casting when he first heard Paul’s name.

Waugh had never seen “Breaking Bad” and was unfamiliar with Paul, a two-time Emmy winner for his role as Pinkman. But Paul was suggested to Waugh to play the villain, so he took a look.

“I didn’t even know who was Aaron Paul was, and everyone thought I was an alien on Earth,” Waugh said. “Then I saw the tape of him and was so blown away, he was the obvious choice for the bad guy. But the more interesting choice and the one that would define the movie was the lead, and having him at the lead was the edgier choice. He’s not just a beautiful person, he’s so much more of an actor than that.”

So much so that Waugh sees Paul as a present-day McQueen. “Aaron has this uncanny ability of portraying edge, mixed with charisma, mixed with humble and likability, and Steve really had that,” Waugh said. “Steve was such a man’s man, and he was also a ladies’ man. I remember seeing Steve at motocross, his hair would be disheveled, mud all over him, and he didn’t care who was looking at him. It’s that ego-less attitude that Steve had that Aaron really has in his natural life.”

## ‘Need for Speed’ needed a better script, dialogue

By ROGER MOORE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

For anybody tired of digital movie car chases that, while fast and furious, routinely defy the laws of physics, here’s one where the cars and stunts are real (mostly) and spectacular. A cross-country sprint followed by a daredevil dash through rural California by the most super of today’s super cars, “Need for Speed” is a car-lover’s dream.

It’s a “Cannonball Run” throwback, with drivers punching through gears and burning through tires as they dodge the cops in illegal street races.

“Need for Speed” makes the journey from video game to big screen without the curse of logic and without the benefit of a punchy, pithy script for its clichéd characters to quote.

Tobey (Aaron Paul) is a car builder and racer from rural New York whose rivalry with the hometown boy (Dominic Cooper) who made it to the Indy 500 reveals the consequences of tearing it up on public highways. Somebody got killed, on top of all the innocent bystanders and their SUVs, school buses and minivans that they run off the road.

Tobey gets out of jail, rounds up his posse (Scott Mescudi, Kani Malek, Ramon Rodriguez) and sets out for revenge.

He talks a billionaire collector into lending him a Shelby Mustang that he customized. As if that would happen. Tobey’s team includes a pilot who can tip him off about directions and police lying in wait, and a chase truck that can refuel that thirsty beast on the road. As if that’s practical.

And the car comes with its own “right seater,” a navigator/co-driver who is the owner’s hot blonde car acquisitions specialist, played by Imogen Poots.

They’re dashing from upstate New York; through New York City to Detroit; then Indiana; Monument Valley, Ariz.; Utah’s Bonneville salt flats; and into San Francisco, where the REAL race will start.

The real race, the DeLeon, is run by a mysterious, manic and motor-mouthed millionaire (Michael Keaton) who broadcasts the races online. “Nobody knows who he is,” even though his webcasts are on video and we can see him.

But get past those head-slappers, give up on hearing any dialogue snapper that “Looks like a scene out of ‘Speed’ down there; hard left in 3, 2, 1...” and this is a car fanatic’s dream.

Stuntman-turned-director Scott Waugh makes this into a stunt team tour de force. Some of the bits where cars get airborne are preposterous outside of an auto stunt show, but these throaty machines are put through their paces, with enough of the driving tricks plainly performed by the cast to make this a car culture picture of which Steve McQueen might approve.

“Need for Speed” is rated PG-13 for sequences of reckless street racing, disturbing crash scenes, nudity and language. Running time: 130 minutes.

## New on base

“Need for Speed” is playing at:

### Europe

Mildenhall, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella and Vicenza.

### Pacific

Shooboot, Benny Decker, Fleet Theater, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Putnam, Hanssen, Kadena, Kunsen, Schriber, Gonsky, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: theneedforspeedmovie.com



AARON PAUL, INVISION/AP

Based on the largely successful racing video game franchise, “Need for Speed,” starring Aaron Paul, chronicles a near-impossible cross-country race against time — one that begins as a mission for revenge, but proves to be one of redemption.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

## 'Plants vs. Zombies'

## 'Garden Warfare' a bloomin' good shooter

By BRIAN BOWERS  
Stars and Stripes

**M**illions of undead creepers have succumbed to the mighty peashooter and voracious chomper in "Plants vs. Zombies." But the action has always been small-scale and relatively static in the cellphone game.

But now, PopCap Games and Electronic Arts have taken that experience and expanded it into a console shooter called "Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare."

"Garden Warfare" is just the latest in a long line of casual titles that have migrated from cellphones to consoles.

Several years ago, my wife was mesmerized by a TV-size version of "Bejeweled" and my young niece thoroughly enjoyed waving her arms to slice pineapples in the Kinect version of "Fruit Ninja." And don't forget "Angry Birds," which is now available in a "Star Wars" version.

However, none of these games has taken its subject and transformed it into a full-fledged experience that even a hard-core gamer could enjoy.

The game is a third-person shooter that often feels a lot like EA's "Battlefield" franchise. For example, each side has four different classes of fighters with varying abilities; there's a game mode that's very similar to "Rush" and its underlying mechanics are based on the same Frostbite 3 technology that powers "Battlefield 4."

But there's enough "PvZ" in the genetic makeup to ensure the game isn't just "Bat-

telfield" with new skins on the characters.

Each plant or zombie starts out with the basic ability to shoot at opponents and one skill that's unique to its class. As you level up each character, you unlock additional abilities.

The plants have the feisty peashooter, which serves as the infantryman. He can run around the battlefield taking potshots at zombies or plant his roots and pull out a sort of veggie Gatling gun to mow them down. There's also the chomper, which can bite the heads off zombies or burrow underground to attack from below. There's also the cactus, which serves as a sharpshooter and can launch an attack drone. And the sunflower can heal the wounded or plant its roots and fire a deadly beam of sunlight.

The zombies have the foot soldier, who comes with a jetpack and can fire a rocket. The mad scientist can create healing stations or throw a grenade. The engineer can lob a sonic grenade or launch an attack drone. And the all-star carries a rapid-fire football cannon and can slam into foes with his tackle ability.

Although each side offers different abilities, they are pretty evenly matched as long as everyone pays attention to what classes are being selected. A team where everyone's a sunflower or mad scientist will be incredibly healthy but also woefully lacking in firepower.

The battle modes are limited, but very good.

The combat that's most like the original cellphone game is called "Garden Ops." It features four players working together to protect a garden from a zombie horde. The onus on the undead are boosted by a wild assortment of bosses that aren't available in the other game modes.

These include yetis and giants wielding telephone poles. However, the vegetable warriors can also plant their own re-enforcements in pots scattered around the defensive zone. These potted plants can act as defensive turrets or can dispense healing, depending on which type of vegetation you select. If your team survives

for 10 rounds, you have the opportunity to escape with your benefactor, Crazy Dave.

If you have an Xbox One, you can play "Garden Ops" with a friend in split-screen. However, survival to the 10th round is a lot more difficult when there are only two players involved.

The other game modes are a version of team deathmatch called "Team Vanquish" and the "Rush" clone, which is called "Gardens and Graveyards."

"Team Vanquish" involves 12-on-12 combat that rages until one side has tallied 50 kills — or "vanquishes" in the family-friendly vocabulary of "Garden Warfare." If you revive a teammate within 15 seconds of his falling, it deducts a point from your opponent's score. In most cases, this provides ample encouragement to heal and revive teammates. However, if you listen to your headset, you'll quickly realize that some of the games are dominated by 8-year-olds. When you hear that, you can be certain that you'll never get revived if you go down.

In "Gardens and Graveyards," one team defends a string of bases while the other tries to overrun them. The attacking team gets several minutes to capture each base in sequence. If they fail to beat the clock in any of these attacks, the game ends in victory for the defenders.

In some of the matches, you can play in "Boss Mode" if you have an Xbox One. This allows you to connect to your console through a Kinect or tablet to get an overhead view of the battle. From that vantage point, you can help your teammates by gathering intelligence, dropping health or calling in artillery strikes. However, it's pretty rare to see anyone using this. Players seem to prefer to be on the ground where the action is.

At the end of a match, you are awarded "coins" based on your performance. You use these to buy packages of "stickers," which are filled with random items

such as potted plants, to use in "Garden Ops," items for customizing your characters or upgrades for your weapons. The more you pay, the better the items you are likely to get. While you definitely hope

Overall grade: **A-**

you'll receive weapon upgrades, some of the customization options are very cool — or goofy. You can tell high-ranking players on the battlefield because they sport beards, hats, tattoos, face paint or other items that are definitely not standard-issue.

The game is rated E10, which means that practically everyone who can hold a controller will get parental permission to join the battle. However, the game still offers solid mechanics that will please hard-core gamers.

The game's graphics might be cartoonish, but they're pretty good. The bright color palette works well for the subject and the renderings and animations are sharp and detailed.

The controls are similar to those in "Battlefield" and are very smooth.

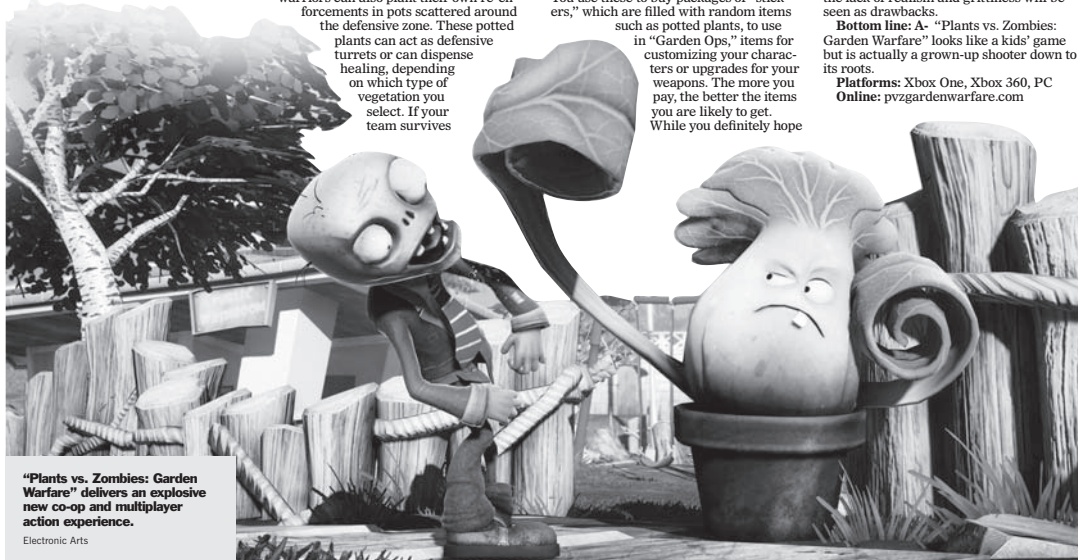
The backgrounds are very well designed, with a good mix of cover, open space and high ground that will give each of the classes plenty of opportunities to use their abilities. There are also many points of access to each area, which prevents camping.

Another element that makes this game impressive is its price. It's available for \$40 for the Xbox One and \$30 for the Xbox 360 and PC.

All of this adds up to a great deal for entry-level gamers or those who have been intimidated by shooters like "Call of Duty" or "Battlefield." Shooter fans are likely to find a lot to like too, but will probably see "Garden Warfare" as a fun diversion for a few hours rather than the type of immersive experience they prefer. The limited number of game modes and the lack of realism and grittiness will be seen as drawbacks.

**Bottom line:** A- "Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare" looks like a kids' game but is actually a grown-up shooter down to its roots.

**Platforms:** Xbox One, Xbox 360, PC  
**Online:** pvzgardenwarfare.com



"Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare" delivers an explosive new co-op and multiplayer action experience.

Electronic Arts

## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

## GO HERE:

## Paris year-round markets

Could there be a better way to sample daily life as the Parisians live it than browsing the markets of Paris? American and former Paris resident Marjorie R. Williams, co-author of "Markets of Paris" (Little Bookroom, 2012), thinks not. We discovered Williams through the "Bonjour Paris" newsletter and asked her to suggest some markets that newcomers to the city might enjoy. Here are her suggestions for affordable, year-round markets that can be navigated even if you're not fluent in French.

- **Marché Bastille**, an open-air market on Boulevard Richard-Lenoir in the 11th Arrondissement, open from about 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays.

- **Marché Couvert Saint-Germain**, a covered market on Rue Lobineau in the 6th Arrondissement, open 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays.

- **Rue Montorgueil**, a market street in the 2nd Arrondissement, open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and on Sunday mornings.

- **Le Marché de la Création Edgar Quinet**, an arts and crafts market on Boulevard Edgar Quinet in the 14th Arrondissement, open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays.

"There are more than 120 other markets in Paris to choose from if they like these!" she said via email. For more on Paris markets or Williams' book, visit [marjoriewilliams.com](http://marjoriewilliams.com) or find "Markets of Paris" on Facebook. Follow Williams on Twitter at [@w\\_marjorie](https://twitter.com/w_marjorie).



COURTESY OF MARJORIE R. WILLIAMS/"The Markets of Paris"

**Marché Bastille** is an open-air Paris food market in the edgy 11th Arrondissement on Boulevard Richard-Lenoir. On Thursday and Sunday, this mostly gourmet roving market pops up on the tree-lined median strip offering visitors a variety of edibles.



JENS MEYER/AP

## PONDER THIS:

## Enigmatic art in central Germany

A woman relaxes at an exhibition called "Magazine and Encyclopedia," featuring the works of the New Leipzig School artist Paule Hammer, at the City Museum in Jena, Germany, east of Erfurt, on March 14. In Hammer's paintings and installations, he weaves his personal philosophies into dense, pop-inspired compositions. The exhibit is set to run until May 25.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Pisa's New Year

In Pisa, Italy, residents and visitors will step forward in time when events spread across several days mark the start of New Year 2015.

Until 1749, Pisa, along with other communities in Tuscany, used a calendar that recognized the Annunciation, or the time when the angel Gabriel informed the Virgin Mary that she would become the mother of Christ, as the beginning of the new year. The date of March 25 corresponds to nine months before Jesus' birth.

Celebrations kick off Saturday, when a smaller version of one of the city's signature events, the Luminara, will see some 2,000 small candles lit along the Ponte di Mezzo and the Arno River. City squares will host shows and events that conclude with fireworks set to music.

On Sunday, historical demonstrations will be held in communities across the province, where it will also be possible to sample foods typical to the region. On Tuesday, Pisa will have a historical parade of costumed characters that will end at noon at the piazza dei Miracoli in front of the Duomo.

The start of the new year is measured by means of a simple solar clock, when, at midday, sunlight shines through a window in the nave of the Duomo and lands on a marble egg.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at [stripes.com/travel/europe-travel](http://stripes.com/travel/europe-travel)

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/okot62j>.

## Chocolate fest in Mons

Before the Easter Bunny delivers his candy treats, those with a sweet tooth can head to Mons, Belgium, for a festival celebrating all things chocolate.

La Fête du Chocolat, set for Saturday and Sunday, will unite artisans and chocolatiers with those who appreciate quality in their cocoa indulgences. Chocoholics can enjoy tastings, demonstrations and, of course, the chance to buy the wares.

A "Promenade Gourmande" will stretch over a quarter mile, and for the kids, "Chocoland" is the place to go for hands-on workshops.

One stand will explore the relationship between Champagne and chocolate. Other treats will include a massive cake and a

giant chocolate house. On Sunday, city stores will be open from 2-6 p.m.

The festival centers on the pedestrian zone at the Rue de la Chaussée. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/kfjvd7](http://tinyurl.com/kfjvd7).

## Historical market

Step back in time by attending the historical market in Wiesbaden this weekend. The Kranzplatz, not far from the Kochbrunnen in the city center, will host a market bustling with vendors, artisans and entertainers, bringing a days-of-yore feel to Hesse's capital.

The younger set will enjoy a birds of prey show, fairy tale role-playing and a wooden carousel, along with opportunities to craft a knight's shield or try archery.

All ages can enjoy the live music, often played on instruments based on models from days gone by. Appetites can be satisfied with snacks baked in a wood-fired oven or with more modern-day fare, such as waffles, crepes or steaks. A historical tavern will offer drinks ranging from specialty beers to warm honey wine.

Although the market is free, donations are encouraged. Proceeds will benefit the organization Kinderonthilfe and support orphans in Haiti.

Market hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe



PHOTOS BY SLOBODAN LEKIC/Stars and Stripes

Entrance to the Trench of Bayonets, in central Verdun, France, where a company of French soldiers was buried alive by German artillery bombardment during World War I.

## KNOW &amp; GO

• **Location:** The Verdun battlefield is about 90 miles west of the German border at Saarbrücken and about 160 miles east of Paris.

• **Times:** Opening and closing times vary according to month. Please check the website [en.verdun-tourisme.com](http://en.verdun-tourisme.com) for times during the month you plan to visit.

• **Accommodations:** Verdun has a number of small hotels and bed-and-breakfasts.

• **Costs:** All the forts and museums charge entrance fees amounting to 4 euros for adults and 2 euros for children between ages 8 and 16, so it's a good idea to go to the Tourist Office in Verdun to buy a Museum Pass of 23 euros for adults and 9.50 for children. It allows entry to all the sites in the area. A guided tour of the forts, the battlefield and the "trench of bayonets," in which a platoon of French soldiers was buried alive by artillery shells, leaving only their bayonets sticking out of the ground,



NOVA Anew/Stars and Stripes

costs 25 euros for adults and 18 euros for children.

• **Food:** The city of Verdun has various restaurant options, including French, Italian and Asian.

• **Information:** A car offers greater individual freedom to explore the battlefields, but organized bus tours of the region are available. Because of the sheer size of the battlefield, many visitors prefer a two-day tour.

The city of Verdun's website is [en.verdun-tourisme.com](http://en.verdun-tourisme.com).

— Slobodan Lekic

## Where scars remain

Site stands as monument to WWI's bloody Battle of Verdun

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC  
Stars and Stripes

**T**he World War I Battle of Verdun, in which close to 1 million French and German soldiers died or were wounded, is considered one of the bloodiest battles in history.

The epic confrontation in 1916 was the brainchild of Gen. Erich von Falkenhayn, chief of the German General Staff, who wanted to break the deadlock created by trench warfare by drawing his French enemies into a battle of attrition in which they would suffer unacceptably high casualties. According to Falkenhayn's plan, this would "bleed France white" and compel Paris to sue for peace, thus ending World War I with a German victory.

The plan relied on huge numbers of troops and immense bombardments of French positions by heavy artillery. But within weeks of the start of the campaign in February, 1916, Falkenhayn's concept began to unravel amid fierce French resistance and constant counterattacks. As the French gathered strength, the tide gradually began to turn, and the battle eventually petered out at the end of 1916.

Despite the almost incomprehensible carnage of the 10-month campaign that came to epitomize the slaughter of World War I-style trench warfare, the struggle ended with almost no territory gained or lost and with the front lines remaining essentially where they were before the start of the German offensive. Today, the sprawling battle-

See more photos of the Battle of Verdun national monument [stripes.com/travel](http://stripes.com/travel)

field in the hills and woods overlooking the meandering Meuse River north of the ancient town of Verdun have largely been preserved and turned into a national monument to the Great War. In summer, thousands of visitors flock to this pleasant, undulating countryside.

The approach to Verdun from the A4 Autoroute leads down the Voie Sacrée — the Sacred Way — the only supply route open to the French front commander, Gen. Philippe Pétain. Hailed after WWI as a national hero for his successful defense of Verdun, Pétain later earned infamy when he led the Vichy administration, which collaborated with Nazi Germany in World War II.

Remnants of the Verdun battle — including memorials, ossuaries, sections of the old French forts and trench lines — dot the hilly area that stretches about 15 miles from east to west and 10 miles north to south. Some 11 million large-caliber artillery rounds were fired during the campaign, leaving a number of unexploded munitions — including shells, hand grenades and landmines — that still litter the fields. Although most are by now inert, visitors are warned not to pick them up or even touch them. Rusty chunks of shrapnel and barbed wire also are potentially dangerous, so care should be taken if trekking through the fields off existing roads or pathways.



Trenches offered the only shelter from the bullets and the barrage of artillery shells. Some were made out of concrete, but

most were simply dug into the ground.

One hundred years later, the landscape remains visibly

**Left: The ossuary at the center of the Verdun battlefield, containing the bones of tens of thousands of French and German troops killed in the 10-month battle in 1916.**

**Bottom left: The cemetery and ossuary at Verdun, where thousands of French soldiers are buried. About one million troops were killed or wounded during the epic battle.**

scarred by the thousands of overlapping shell craters, trench lines and bunkers blanketing the terrain. The Verdun battlefield encompassed nine villages so completely devastated that they were abandoned and never rebuilt after the conflict.

The city of Verdun itself was heavily damaged in the fighting, including its landmark Gothic cathedral. Most of the city now dates from the 1920s and 30s when it was extensively rebuilt.

In addition to the citadelle, located on the outskirts of the city, other must-see sites are the giant cemetery and ossuary at the village of Douaumont, as well as Fort Douaumont, where much of the fighting was centered. The fort was captured by the Germans at the start of the offensive through a stroke of luck and served as a base for German troops through much of the campaign until finally recaptured by the French. In May of 1916, a cooking accident sparked a munitions explosion that killed nearly 700 German troops, whose bodies are still entombed in the ruins of the fortress.

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## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



Chips with the skins are one of several options to accompany a hamburger at Byron Hamburgers in Cambridge, England. However, the sides are not included when you order a burger.



PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Byron Hamburgers' namesake sandwich, the Byron, comes with bacon, cheese and "Byron sauce," which tastes suspiciously similar to Thousand Island dressing.

## After Hours: England

BY ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

Something about Byron Hamburgers in Cambridge, England, has been calling to me.

Maybe it is Byron's popularity. Located on Bridge Street, the place always seems to bustle with people, easily visible through the restaurant's glass storefront.

Maybe it is how Byron describes its burgers as "proper." A very English adjective, it suggests that only here can one find a true hamburger worthy of the name, and if the queen were in the mood for a burger, she would come here to get one.

Whatever the reason, I found myself at Byron on a busy Monday evening. While the menu offers chicken and salad (who would order that at a place with "proper" hamburgers?), I went with the Byron: a single patty of Scottish beef, covered in cheese, criss-crossed with bacon and topped with Byron sauce (which tasted suspiciously similar to Thousand Island dressing).

The burger was quite properly savory (from the meat) and sweet (from the sauce) and the bacon had the strong cured taste designed to sate the carnivore in many of us. Somewhat improperly, however, the patty felt a little thin for my taste, and the bread a little cheap (though the website contends this is "a proper squishy bun"), similar to low-quality fast food buns.

Byron contains elements of both fast-food and a full restaurant. This not enough to make the burger bad, but it makes me question the price of 9.25 British pounds (about \$15).

My side was a bowl of chips



Byron Hamburgers is located on the popular Bridge Street not far from the heart of Cambridge.

with skins on, nothing extraordinary for England, but certainly tasty. My wife enjoyed an order of onion rings made with sweet

onions and a spiced batter. Neither of our sides came with the burgers, which led to about another \$5 in cost each.



The Bear Republic Racer 5 India Pale Ale at Byron Hamburgers is American-style, with a strong, hoppy taste.

## BYRON HAMBURGERS

Location: 12 Bridge Street, Cambridge.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closing at 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

Dress: Casual.

Costs: Byron's cheapest hamburger costs 6.75 British pounds (about \$11) and does not include a side. Chips cost an additional 2.95 British pounds. Parking at the Grand Arcade parking lot is one of the closest. Evening rates are 1 British pound an hour (about \$1.50).

— Adam L. Mathis

The choice of whether to try Byron, or, in my case, to go back, is complicated. On the one hand, the burgers are good overall and the restaurant has some wonderful extras you can buy. My wife ordered a Bear Republic Racer 5 India Pale Ale, a wonderfully hoppy, American-style beer and certainly not your typical offering in an English restaurant, and one of several beers you don't see in most places. Byron also offers bourbon, wine and a few desserts, including delicious cookies and a cream milkshake.

The problem is, Byron's prices do not make it competitive, and good burgers can be found at other establishments. Byron is the place you go when you are tired of English pubs' decor. Just keep in mind, the prices can take a bite out of your wallet.

mathis.adam@stripes.com  
Twitter: @AMathisStripes

## Try a savory crepe for a French treat

By L.V. ANDERSON  
Slate

If you like crepes, you might be tempted to fill them with Nutella or jam. Please resist this temptation. The best French crepes are the savory ones, which remain underappreciated in America. Known as *galettes*, these crepes are made from buckwheat flour batter, which offers a nutty flavor. I offer you *galettes* stuffed with Gruyere, peas, mint and a leek and folded into quarters.

## Buckwheat Crepes With Peas, Leek and Gruyere

## Ingredients:

6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 1/2 cups milk  
2 large or 3 small eggs  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup buckwheat flour  
Salt  
1 leek, white and light green parts only, chopped  
Black pepper  
1 cup fresh or frozen peas  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint  
1 1/2 cup grated Gruyere cheese (about 6 ounces)

## Steps:

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Put the milk, eggs, all-purpose flour and buckwheat flour in a blender or large bowl along with the melted butter and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Blend or whisk until very smooth. Cover the batter and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Put 1 tablespoon of the remaining butter in a large skillet over medium heat. When it melts, add the leek and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until it softens, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the peas and continue cooking until they're tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and mash the peas and leek to break them up. Stir in the mint, then taste and adjust the seasoning.

To cook the crepes, put about 1 teaspoon of the remaining butter in a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. When it melts, add enough of the batter to cover the bottom of the pan in a thin but opaque layer. Cook until the top of the crepe is no longer shiny, about 45 seconds, then flip it and cook for about 45 seconds on the other side. Transfer to a paper towel to remove excess butter. Repeat with the remaining butter and batter.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and return one of the crepes to the skillet. Sprinkle about 2 tablespoons of the Gruyere over half of the crepe, then top the cheese with about 3 tablespoons of the pea mixture. Fold the crepe in half to encase the fillings, and cook until the cheese melts. Fold the crepe in half once more and serve. Repeat with the remaining crepes, cheese, and pea mixture.

Makes about 8.

# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

# Cups and strings and childhood things

## Frankfurt children's museum displays collected items

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

As if they were small treasures, the unusual array of objects were lined up in neat rows, secured inside the glass display box — to look at but not to touch. A hoop earring, broken pieces of pottery, a thumbtack, a lighter, paper clips, pink string, a bottle cap, a wooden ice cream stick, a synthetic leaf, a plastic-bead bracelet and much more.

Yes, my daughter and I paid to view this odd accumulation of, well, junk during a recent outing to the Kinder Museum in Frankfurt, Germany.

Whether this gave my daughter, who's 10, the notion that she no longer had to throw anything away, she didn't say; and I didn't mention it, not wanting to give her a new excuse for why the odds 'n' ends of paper scraps, candy wrappers and plastic clothes tag pieces never seem to end up in her waste bin.

The museum's eclectic display of what might ordinarily be considered trash, however, fits perfectly with the theme of the museum's current exhibit: "A Passion for Collecting — About Objects and Their History."

Some of the collections are representative of typical kids' interests, such as the Barbie dolls and toy cars. But most are quirky and fun, such as an entire miniature Smurfs village, Pez candy dispensers (Bart Simpson is in the mix), sugar packets, small perfume bottles, bottle caps, erasers and costume jewelry.

The museum website says the collections come from children from all over the world as well as from private collectors and museum curators.

My daughter was intrigued by the curiosity cabinet; behind each door is a different, unex-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

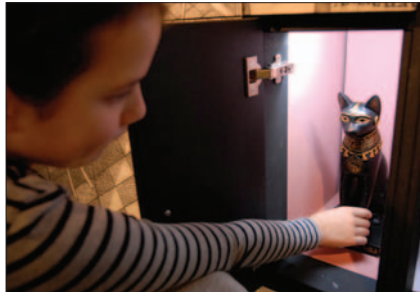
Antique cups and saucers line a display case at the Kinder Museum in Frankfurt, Germany.

pected surprise, from a large conch shell and two starfish to a wooden Egyptian cat sculpture. Another display holds an extensive antique-cup collection. (This one inspired me!)

Much of the information displayed throughout the museum is in German, but some of the staff speaks English, so if we had questions, there was someone to ask.

Some of the displays are interactive and self-explanatory. At one station, children can mold clay to match a wooden design. One staff member helped children knit pompons, which were then hung on some netting in the center of the museum, creating a colorful collection of knitted designs.

Kids can also type on two old manual typewriters. My daughter typed a few letters on



A tall wooden cat, looking very Egyptian, was one of the surprises behind the many doors of the "curiosity cabinet" at the museum.

an index card, but she wasn't impressed by the slow, outdated technology. She was drawn to the two computer activities: On one, she could paint a picture, and on another, she could play "20 Questions" with her favorite Harry Potter characters.

The museum is quite small,

and we finished in less than two hours. I wouldn't recommend a trip to Frankfurt just to see the Kinder Museum, but it's worth a stop if you're in Frankfurt to shop or to visit one of the many other museums the city has to offer.

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## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address: An der Hauptwache 15-Mezzanine, in Frankfurt's Hauptwache, the city's central large plaza. We parked in the nearby Hauptwache parking garage and walked several blocks. We had to ask directions at an information booth after failing to find the museum, despite circling where we thought the museum should be several times. It's not conspicuous: The museum can be found in "das Loch," the sunken terrace across from St. Catherine's Church leading down to an underground pedestrian area with shops and public transportation.

### TIMES

Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. only on school holidays.

### COSTS

Entry costs 4 euros for adults, 2 euros for children; 9 euros for a "family card." We paid 7.50 euros for several hours of parking.

### FOOD

There are several eating options around downtown Frankfurt.

### INFORMATION

Groups can book workshops, including sewing in English, as well as themed birthday parties at the museum. Phone: (+49) (0) 69-212-35154, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for information and booking. Website: <http://kindermuseum.frankfurt.de/index.html> (in German and English).

— Jennifer H. Svan



Children can create pompons with yarn at the museum and keep them or leave them to add to a collection.



Barbie dolls dressed in a variety of fashions are among the many collections on display.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## Master Europe's airports with these tips

It can be a drag to drag your bag through airports. But when scrambling with last-minute changes in flight plans, those without checked bags are far more nimble.

Throughout the years I've learned some tricks for dealing with European airports. Here are a few of them:

• **Pack light and carry it on:** When you carry your own luggage, quick, last-minute changes in flight plans become simpler. A small bag sits in the overhead bin or under your seat, so when you arrive, you can hit the ground running. It's a good feeling. When I land in London, I'm on my way downtown while everyone else stares anxiously at the luggage carousel. When I fly home, I'm the first guy to get a greeting from the family dog.

• **It doesn't hurt to ask:** I often ask airport staff for small favors, and so should you. I'll ask the gate agent if she can seat me in the exit row. I'll ask the car-rental agent for the easiest way out of the airport. And if I have a tight connection and there are lines at passport control, I'll ask the attendant politely if I can use the "elite flyer" line so I can make that connecting flight.

• **Say no to exchange booths:** At airport exchange booths such as Forex or Traveler, you lose about 15 percent when you change dollars to euros or other currency. When I arrive in Eu-

rope, I head for an airport ATM, load up on cash, and keep it safe in my money belt. I've never been to an airport in Europe that didn't have plenty of ATMs.



Rick Steves

• **Appreciate airport amenities:** You may be jet-lagged and just want to get to your hotel, but take advantage of airport

services before you leave.

Stop by the tourist information office for maps, museum passes, subway tickets and advice (usually they're less crowded than the downtown office). If you need an international phone card or SIM card for your mobile phone, many airport convenience stores carry them. I've also found that free Wi-Fi at executive lounges in airports often leaks into the main hall. Just sitting against the wall, I can get online for free.

• **Know where you're going:** Smart travelers download airport terminal maps to their smartphones or print them out before they leave. You can also look for websites with instructions for how to get from your arrival gate to the center of the city (for Paris, try parisbytrain.com; for Rome, see the YouTube channel at romewalks.com).

Google has even started mapping airport interiors with its Street View program.

• **Avoid taxi scams:** If you have to take a taxi from the airport, it's better to head for the official taxi stand and join the queue rather than to flag one down. The taxi should have a big, prominent taxi-company logo and telephone number. Avoid using unmarked beaters with makeshift taxi lights on top.

• **Don't get lost in translation:** Nearly everything is translated into English at European airports, but you still need to pay careful attention. For example, the shuttle bus between terminals at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport is called the CDGVAL — you have to look carefully to see that it is also marked "Airport

Shuttle" in smaller letters. At the Frankfurt airport, regional trains depart from the Regionalbahnhof, while long-distance trains use the Fernbahnhof.

• **Know where you will land:** Budget airlines sometimes use obscure airports. For example, one of Ryanair's London hubs is Stansted Airport, one of the farthest airports from London's city center. Ryanair's flights to "Frankfurt" actually take you to Hahn, 75 miles away.

• **Have happy returns:** When it's time to fly home, be sure you know your departure terminal before you leave for the airport. Don't count on the taxi driver or shuttle bus driver to know where you should be dropped off.

For example, at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, American airlines

fly direct to the United States depart from Terminal 5, which is a separate building not connected to the rest of the terminals. If your driver leaves you at the main terminal, you'll have to take a shuttle bus — it's too far to walk. (Use flight/Track-type apps for reliable terminal details.)

Most European airports are slick, modern and well-connected to the city center, but they still can be a jumble of tired travelers, torn-up terminals and tardy taxis. Channel your inner Boy or Girl Scout and be prepared. Expect to travel smart... and you will.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guides and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



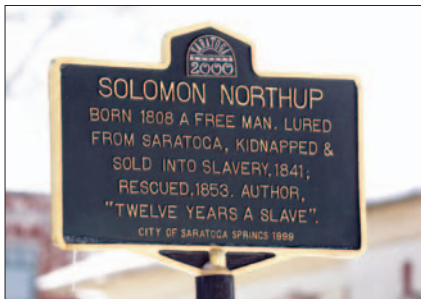
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## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## '12 Years' author's death still a mystery



BY CHRIS CAROLA  
*The Associated Press*

**H**istorians know where Solomon Northup was born, where he lived and where he worked. They know whom he married and how many children he had. They know he played the fiddle and spent 12 years enslaved in the South before being freed.

What historians don't know about the author of "12 Years a Slave" is when and how he died and where he is buried. It's a lingering mystery in the final chapter of the life of the 19th-century

free-born African-American whose compelling account of enforced slavery in pre-Civil War Louisiana was made into the Oscar-winning film of the same title.

"That's sort of a big blank spot in the story, for sure," said Rachel Seligman, co-author of "Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of *Twelve Years a Slave*," published last year.

This month, "12 Years a Slave" took home the Academy Awards for best picture, best adapted screenplay and best supporting actress. The accolades have

sparked new interest in Northup's story, which was little known until recent years even in the upstate New York communities where he spent most of his life.

Northup was born July 10, 1808, in what is now the Essex County town of Minerva, in the Adirondack Mountains. His father, a former slave, moved the family to neighboring Washington County, eventually settling in the village of Fort Edward, on the Hudson River 40 miles north of Albany. Northup married Anne Hampton in the late 1820s, and the couple lived in an 18th-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 33**

**A Solomon Northup historical marker in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., honors the author of "12 Years a Slave."**

**MIKE GROLL/AP**

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## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## FROM PAGE 32

century house in Fort Edward that is now a museum.

Northup worked on his father's farm and rafted timber on the Champlain Canal between Fort Edward and the southern end of Lake Champlain. The couple and their children moved to nearby Saratoga Springs when Anne got a job in one of the growing spa resort town's big hotels. Northup found work as a musician, and in 1841, two white men lured him to Washington, D.C., with the promise of more work. Instead, they kidnapped him and took him to New Orleans, where he was sold into slavery.

Northup endured the next 12 years enslaved on a Louisiana cotton plantation before friends in Saratoga finally won his freedom. In 1853, he published a memoir of his ordeal that led to a speaking tour supported by abolitionists. He got involved in

## TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE

SOLOMON NORTHPUP



the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find freedom in the Northeast and Canada.

**After being freed, Northup published a memoir of his ordeal in 1853. He got involved in the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find freedom in the Northeast and Canada. But around 1863, he dropped out of sight and was never heard from again.**

But around 1863, the height of the Civil War, he dropped out of sight and was never heard from

again. Even the movie notes at the end that "the date, location and circumstances" of Northup's death remain unknown.

Theories abound about what might have happened to him. One scenario has him being captured and killed while serving as a spy for the Union Army. The man who helped rescue him said he believed Northup had taken to drink and was kidnapped yet again. Or Northup could have died in a place where no one knew him or cared to properly bury an African-American at a time when a war over slavery was tearing the nation apart.

"He may have just wandered around from place to place and died somewhere nobody knew who he was, and he was buried in a potter's field," said David Fiske, co-author of the 2013 Northup book along with Union College professor Clifford Brown.

"There's no paper trail for him," Brown added.

Fiske said Northup's descendants also couldn't provide any documents or hard facts, so he has followed numerous threads while trying to track down where Northup might have been buried. He checked cemeteries in communities outside Saratoga and other upstate communities where Northup's wife and their children later lived, but came up empty.

No death records have ever been found for him. Fiske, a former state librarian, points out that death records weren't kept in a systematic form in New York until the 1880s.

For Seligman, a museum curator at Skidmore College, host of this July's annual Solomon Northup Day, the mystery surrounding Northup's demise and resting place is part of the allure of being a historian.

"It's what keeps historians going," she said. "It's just a puzzle to be solved."



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## WEEKEND

## Pacific

## THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

CHECK THIS OUT:  
The 41st Tokyo  
Motorcycle Show

At this annual show March 28-30, see 122 booths featuring more than 550 new models and equipment. Visitors with a Japanese license and who understand Japanese can take a test ride. The event is at Tokyo Big Sight West No. 1 & 2. For more: [tinyurl.com/obkybo](http://tinyurl.com/obkybo). Atsugi ITT has a tour to the event on March 30.



Attendees take test rides, above, and a pro rider shows off, right, during a previous Tokyo Motorcycle Show at Tokyo Big Sight.

Photos courtesy of Tokyo Motorcycle Show



## ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

## Japan

**Atsugi** ITT Tours has a tour to Asahi Beer, Saijigi Temple and Odawara Castle on March 29 and another trip for sightseeing in Kyoto on April 5. **Camp Fuji** MCCS Trips and Recreation has a trip to paintball at Ikego on March 23. Enjoy Giant Chess & Checkers on March 27 and Root Beer Pong on March 29 with **Yokosuka** Single Sailor Liberty Program. Visit Anime Japan 2014 on March 23 and see the cherry blossoms at Mount Minobu with Yokosuka Tours. **Camp Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service is offering open-air rock climbing for beginners on April 13.

## Guam

See PG-rated "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2" for free at Hotspot at Andersen on April 12. Hike to Double Reef Beach on April 5 with Andersen Outdoor Recreation.

## Okinawa

Enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony on March 28, a visit to Expo Park & Aquarium on April 6, a trip to Nago Pineapple & Neo Parks on April 10 and a fireworks cruise on April 12 with **Camp Foster** Tours. See Uncle Kracker live as part of the Camp Foster Festival on April 12. Go on a hike to Mount Katsudake with **Kadena** Outdoor Recreation on March 26. Pick strawberries on March 29 and visit Shuri Castle and the gardens of Shikina-en on March 30 with Kadena ITT.

To see your events here: [SPEDTlibrary@stripes.com](http://SPEDTlibrary@stripes.com).



## OKINAWA BEACH OPENINGS

**MAESATO BEACH:** March 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; attractions including banana boat rides, ocean viewing by boat and more at ANA International Ishigaki Resort, Ishigaki islands; free; 0980-887111.

**ON-NA-GO BEACH:** March 29, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; enjoy a Hula show, taiko drums, Eisa dance, treasure hunting and more at On-Na-GO Resort Village (Kise Beach); free admission, 1,000 yen buffet lunch adults, 500 yen kids.

**BIBI BEACH:** March 30, 9 a.m.-noon; swim in the ocean. Attractions include dancing and banana boat rides; Itanami city; 098-840-3451.

**UPPAMA BEACH:** March 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; take part in shell hunting, sea kayaking and more; at beach in front of Resort Hotel Bel Parasio.

**RESONEX BEACH:** March 30, 9 a.m.-noon; enjoy marine sports, ocean swim and food booths; Nago city; 098-053-8021.

**CHURASUN BEACH:** March 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; visitors can swim in the ocean, take a five-hour mama-san bike endurance race and more; Tomigusuku city; 098-850-1139.

**MIYAKOJIMA BEACH:** April 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; shell hunting, kayaking and more; Maitama Beach, Miyako Island.

**KUMEJIMA BEACH:** April 6, 11 a.m.; ceremony is followed by baseball tournament; four-hour ferry ride from Okinawa Tamarin (port); 098-985-7115.

**AZAMA "SUN SUN" BEACH:** April 12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; swim, enjoy marine attractions including waterskiing, banana boat and watercraft rides and more.

MCT

## IN BLOOM: Cherry Blossom Festivals

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• Keep up with the latest news on the cherry blossoms and related events: [stripes.com/bloom](http://stripes.com/bloom).

• For a photo gallery: [tinyurl.com/n9g1rbh](http://tinyurl.com/n9g1rbh).

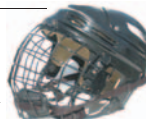


## DRINK UP! BeerFes Okinawa

On March 29 and 30, taste award-winning beer at Helios Pub, 1-225, Makishi, located on Kokusai Streets. It is 2,700 yen for an advance ticket and 2,900 yen at door — and the price includes a beer glass. For more: [beertaster.org](http://beertaster.org).

## ON THE ICE: 2014 IHF World Championships in South Korea

Event is April 20-24 & 26 at Gyeongang Sports Complex & Park Ice Rink in Gyeonggi province. Tickets are 15,000-20,000 won. For more: [tinyurl.com/3e6rwhw](http://tinyurl.com/3e6rwhw).



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

## Offbeat holiday

## Visitors seeing more than the traditional vacation sites in Japan

The Yomiuri Shimbun

**F**orget Mount Fuji, Kyoto and other common sightseeing destinations. Many foreign tourists are heading for off-the-beaten-path spots where they can enjoy a real taste of daily life in Japan.

Showcasing food menu items made with wax for display in front of restaurants might be unique to Japan, which probably is why tourists want to try their hand at it.

Amy and her 12-year-old son Jordan attended a workshop at Ganso Shoku-hin Sanpuru-ya, a kitchenware store on Kappabashi Dogudori street, Tokyo. Amy, a 48-year-old visitor from Seattle, made samples of shrimp tempura.

"It looks real, and every piece is beautiful," she said as she admired her work.

According to the shop, elaborate and realistic-looking samples as well as sushi magnets are popular among foreign tourists.

"They seem to be fascinated with all the various colors used in Japanese food," an employee said.

Japanese farms are another popular destination. In December, 50 people from Thailand boarded a tour bus to visit Migita Persimmon Picking Garden in Kurume. It was something they never tried before.

A Thai visitor, 36, picked 20 fuyugaki persimmons at the farm. "I'm going to give them to my friends and family when I return home," he said. A single persimmon costs about 100 baht in Thailand, about 330 yen or \$3, about four times more than Chinese persimmons.

Though Thailand is a major exporter of fruits, such fruits as peaches, melons and strawberries grown in Japan are regarded as luxury items in Thailand due to their taste, shape and color, according to the Thai tourists, who added that the fruits are popular among the middle class.

Factories are also on the tourists' itinerary. At the end of last year, 33 students from other Asian countries and Africa visited Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp.'s Yawata Steel Works in Kitakyushu. They were stunned by the organizational structure and atmosphere.

"I was impressed by the disciplined, devoted workers. This is Japan's strength," said a 38-

year-old Sri Lankan.

"I was interested in the corporate history of combating environmental pollution," a 29-year-old Filipino said.

Overseas visitors looking for souvenirs often make a beeline for Don Quijote stores in Tokyo, as the general discount giant's outlets are open until midnight and

cramped with piles of miscellaneous goods.

"The stores are filled with interesting stuff, and the prices are cheap. I've never seen shops like this before," said a 39-year-old hotel manager from Thailand. He bought some bags of green tea at the flagship store in Ginza, Tokyo.

Don Quijote offers a wide range of products from watches and bags to detergent and snacks. The stores are like a theme park for foreigners to observe Japanese consumption habits.

According to the Japan Tourism Agency's survey of foreign tourists, more than 70 percent said experiencing the Japanese lifestyle was satisfying.



Tourists to Japan, clockwise from left, are shopping at Don Quijote, a general discount store crammed with miscellaneous goods; making wax food samples; and picking fresh fruit at the Migita Persimmon Picking Garden.

The Yomiuri Shimbun

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

In addition to its small menu of coffees and teas, Botton coffee shop in the Seoul neighborhood of Itaewon offers vegan and regular desserts. Shown here are a flat white, an espresso and milk drink similar to a cappuccino, and a vegan coconut and chocolate chip cookie.

# After Hours: South Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

Of the dozens of artsy, hole-in-the-wall coffee shops tucked in twisting alleys of Seoul's Itaewon and Haebongchong neighborhoods, Botton caught my eye because of the unusual brass plaque hanging on its mid-night-blue facade.

It listed standard offerings for an upscale coffee shop, such as espresso and organic tea.

And then: "dessert for vegetarian."

As a quasi-vegetarian with a penchant for quirky cafes and anything chocolate, my interest was piqued. And I was not disappointed during a recent visit, when I had what was, by far, the best coffee I've tasted in South Korea.

Botton is small, with just four tables and a few seats at a small

## BOTTON

**Directions:** On the hill between the Itaewon and Noksapyeong subway stops. From Itaewon station, take Exit One and walk about 10 minutes until you see the small uphill alley, wide enough for one car, branching off on the right. Walk up the hill, and Botton will be on the left across from Berlin restaurants.

**Menu:** Coffees, teas and a small dessert menu. Some

desserts are vegan; drinks can be ordered with soy milk.

**Hours:** 1 p.m.-11 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 1 p.m.-9 p.m. Sundays. Closed Mondays.

**Dress:** Casual.

**Costs:** Most coffees are priced at 4,000 to 6,000 won (about \$3.75-\$5.60). You can add syrups for an extra 500 won.

**Phone:** (+82) 070-8264-3720.

— Ashley Rowland

counter and at a wide window looking out on mostly pedestrian traffic outside. So is its one-page menu, which offers standards such as lattes and cappuccinos.

I ordered a packet of four vegan cranberry cookies — meaning they were made with no animal products, including eggs,

milk, butter or honey. They were soft and chewy, and had I not known they were vegan, I would never have guessed there was anything unusual about them. Because I am a thorough food critic, I also had to sample a slice of non-vegan pecan pie, which had a deliciously flaky crust and rich filling.

The biggest surprise of the day was the coffee. I ordered a flat white, a slightly sweetened mixture of espresso and milk served in a small glass with an artem milk swirl on top. It was strong yet smooth, lightly and perfectly sweetened.

Botton is also a step up from other coffee shops in terms of atmosphere. With its muted blue-gray walls, dim lighting, fresh flowers on the tables and soft jazz playing in the background, this is a place to go on a date, to chat with friends, work quietly on your laptop or read a book.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

## Hot sauce brings out best in Korean fare

By KEN OTTERBOURG  
Special to The Washington Post

Steven Kim's modest hot sauce empire started at a garden party in the summer of 2010. He was cooking Korean food for friends at his house in suburban Richmond, Va. There were seafood pancakes, Korean-style ribs, a little kimchi and, to the side, a pair of squeeze bottles of a dipping sauce that Kim had adapted from his mother's recipe. He took a marker and wrote "KimKim" on them.



Steven Kim

The party was written up in a local magazine, complete with a photo of the sauce in the bottles. Kim's buddies wanted the sauce, so he made a few batches. They wanted more, so he made more. On it went until 2012, when he found a bottler who said that for \$5,000, Kim could get half a production run, which is 150 cases, which at 12 bottles a case is 1,800 bottles.

Kim wasn't worried. "It was \$5,000, and the worst-case scenario was that I'd have a lot of sauce to give away," he said.

In early April 2012, a week after the bottling run, Kim submitted his sauce to the Specialty Food Association. Three months later, Kim won the association's gold medal for innovation in cooking sauce. The first run sold out, and since then, Kim, 46, has been spreading the word about his sauce and in the process has helped to bring Korean cooking into the spotlight in the U.S.

Those who know Korean food will recognize KimKim as a version of *ssamjang*, the all-purpose Korean dipping sauce. It's not blisteringly hot, like Sriracha. But it's also not sweet, like ketchup, or as salty as hoisin sauce. The key ingredient is fermented pepper paste, made from sun-dried Korean chilies; other ingredients include fermented soy paste, vinegar,

sesame seeds and sugar.

Here is a recipe using KimKim sauce, or any hot sauce:

### KimKim Twice-Fried Wings

You'll need an instant-read thermometer to monitor the oil temperature.

#### Ingredients:

- 8 cups canola oil for frying
- 4 pounds chicken drumettes and flat wings (40 to 45 pieces)
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) salted butter
- 3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- 1 cup KimKim Korean Hot Sauce or other hot sauce

#### Steps:

Line a baking sheet or two with several layers of paper towels. Seat a wire cooling rack on top. Heat the oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat to maintain an oil temperature of 225 to 250 degrees.

Add about a third of the chicken wings (15 pieces max); fry for 15 to 20 minutes, turning wings as needed to promote even browning and cooking. Use a Chinese spider or wide slotted spoon to transfer to the rack. Cook the remaining wings in two more batches.

Let the chicken rest for at least 1 hour and no more than 2 hours. Keep the oil in the pot to fry the wings again.

When ready to serve, combine the butter, sesame oil and hot sauce in a small saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring until the mixture is well combined. Transfer to a large mixing bowl.

Remove any stray bits from the oil in the pot. Heat over high heat to 400 degrees.

Carefully add a third of the chicken wings; fry for 5 to 7 minutes, constantly and carefully moving the wing in the oil and maintaining a temperature of about 375 degrees. The wings will be golden brown and crisp; use a skimmer or a wide slotted spoon to immediately transfer the wings to the bowl with sauce, and toss to coat.

Repeat with the remaining two batches of wings. Serve warm.

Makes 6 servings, 470 calories each

Steven Kim's KimKim Korean Hot Sauce joins a field of sauces used in Asian cooking.

PHOTOS BY KEN OTTERBOURG  
Special to The Washington Post



Botton is easily recognizable by its midnight-blue facade.

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific

## Buried alive and liking it

Here's the dirt on being immersed in hot sand at Japanese spa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

My skepticism grew with every scoop of rich, black volcanic sand the tiny old Japanese woman cast over me with her shovel.

She danced around my tall frame gracefully as she buried me, just as she had done to the hordes of other people she had buried alive.

"What am I doing here?" I thought to myself.

I had agreed — correction, I had paid 1,000 yen (about \$10) — to be buried alive at Beppu Kaihin Sunayu, which literally means "Beppu beach sand hot spring," which is supposed to act as a sort of subterranean sauna.

The sand felt heavy on my chest. My arms were covered, then my legs. I wanted to squirm in discomfort, but the weight of the sand simply wouldn't allow it.

The sand was hot from the underground springs synonymous with the city of Beppu, in Oita prefecture. My pores opened and I began to sweat as steam rose from what felt like a burial mound.

I could hear the sounds of the ocean. This is where the tide began to change for me.

The old Japanese woman built a pillow out of sand for my head. She packed it in around my neck.

This was pretty nice.

I was starting to enjoy myself.

I looked toward the heavens, squinting under a bright sun. I took a deep breath and began to feel at ease. I closed my eyes and let the sand do the rest. The warmth from the hot spring-infused sand relaxed my travel-weary mind.

Not long after, I began to laugh; I had developed an itch on my ear. Cracks began to show in the sand on my chest, which now heaved up and down. The Japanese woman hurried to dump more sand on top of me. She smoothed it out. I was her sculpture and I was ruining the perfection she sought.

She told me to stop laughing. It only made me laugh more. Finally she scratched my ear with an onsen towel. I thanked her wholeheartedly. She smiled.

The 15 minutes were up before I felt like they had begun. I broke through the mountain of sand like a chick emerging from an incubated egg.

I was a new man.

As my friends and I departed, the spa workers once again flooded the enormous sandbox with hot spring water to reset it for the next group to pass through.

I wasn't done as I made my way inside. I cast my robe into the bin and got into the shower. The black sand clung to my body.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Being buried in the hot spring-infused beach sand at Beppu Kaihin Sunayu is a relaxing experience for any traveler to the onsen city of Beppu in Japan's Oita prefecture. Fifteen minutes under the sand will be over before it feels like it has begun.



Patrons at Beppu Kaihin Sunayu get buried in the hot spring-infused beach sand in the background while sand is soaked in hot spring water in the foreground. Then the spa alternates which sand box is used, ensuring that it is always clean and piping hot.

Then it was time for a soak in Beppu Kaihin Sunayu's onsen, or hot springs.

It was quite a relaxing experience.

The city of Beppu is a must-visit destination for any foreigner traveling on the island of Kyushu. The city is nestled beautifully along the coast and in addition to its world-famous hot springs features great bars and restaurants that cater to the city's international university students.

Its hellos, or natural hot springs, attract all types of visitors and feature everything from

elephants and hippos to crocodile farms.

Its onsens, which can be found from Hokkaido to Kagoshima, are some of the best in Japan, and that is saying a lot since the country perfected pampering and spa treatments.

Beppu Kaihin Sunayu most likely isn't for those who fear confined spaces, but you won't really know whether you are built for it until you try it. So, like the immortal words of Will Ferrell in the film "Step Brothers," "Close your eyes, let the dirt just shower over you."

burke.matt@stripes.com



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

Beppu Kaihin Sunayu is on Route 10 in downtown Beppu, right along the water. Its Google Map coordinates are 33.311955, 131.501482.

## TIMES

Open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. March to November; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. December to February. Closed on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

## COSTS

1,000 yen per person.

## FOOD

Vending machines near the free outdoor foot bath offer cold beverages.

## INFORMATION

Telephone: 0977-66-5737; website: city.beppu.oita.jp/01onsen/02shiei/09kaihin/kaihin.html or English language tourism site: <http://english.beppu-navi.jp/item/44>.

— Matthew M. Burke



# WEEKEND: MUSIC

## NEW ALBUMS



### Lea Michele

Louder (Columbia)

On some of the songs from her debut album, Lea Michele is convincing. On others, it's like she is acting.

The "Glee" star, known for her big voice, provides the pipes on "Louder," but some songs sound empty and don't show much emotion or personality from the 27-year-old talent.

The dance-flavored title track is typical and forgettable, as is "Don't Let Go." "Empty Handed," co-written by Christina Perri, comes off like an unimpressive Coldplay cover, while other songs echo Kelly Clarkson, but lack the energy that Clarkson's learned to build.

Michele closes with "If You Say So," which was inspired by one of the last conversations she had with her "Glee" co-star and boyfriend, Cory Monteith, who died after overdosing on heroin and alcohol last year.

The ballad is somewhat chilling and worth a listen, but while the rest of "Louder" features a big voice, most of the time Michele isn't saying much.

—Mesfin Fekadu  
The Associated Press



### Laura Cantrell

No Way There From Here (Thrift Shop Recordings)

"They're just working out who they are," Laura Cantrell sings in explaining the title of her new album's first song, "All the Girls Are Complicated." When it comes to her music, at least, this all-country veteran already has her own fully formed vision.

On "No Way There From Here," the Nashville-born, New York-based singer-songwriter uses country as a base for a beguiling sound that draws on folk and pop. It's a good match for the grace and nuance of lyrics that never serve up trite emotion (the girls really are complicated). And for all the gentle, beguiling nature of her clear aloof, the brisk "Beg or Borrow Days" also reveals a steely resolve.

—Nick Cristiano  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



### Angel Olsen

Burn Your Fire for No Witness (Jagjaguwar)

Angel Olsen's first full-length, 2012's "Half Way Home," was a hushed acoustic affair, intimate and riveting. Olsen had previously worked with Bonnie "Prince" Billy, and that album contained some of his old-time folk sensibility. "Burn Your Fire for No Witness," on the other hand, is much more aggressive but no less riveting. The moments of sober quiet — the haunting "Iota" or the Leonard Cohenesque "White Fire" — contrast with the bitter cries of "High & Wild," "Hi-Five" and "Stars," songs for reverberating electric guitars playing insistent chords.

"If there's one thing I fear / it's knowing you're near / but not with me here," Olsen sings in "Forgiven/Forgotten." Over the course of the song's brief two minutes, her voice veers from an accusation to a plea, from punk anger to girl-group desperation. These are songs of discomfort, but Olsen is at home in them, whether they're destabilizing garage rock or lonesome ballads.

—Steve Klinge  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



### Twin Forks

Dine Alone (Dine Alone)

Chris Carrabba is a far more versatile musician than anyone ever expected when he became one of emo's breakout stars. Although there's a huge difference between Further Seems Forever, Dashboard Confessional and "Twin Forks," his well-crafted lyrics and emotional delivery do tie them all together. With Twin Forks, which includes Bellmore's Suzie Zeldin on vocals and mandolin, Carrabba leans toward the folk of Mumford & Sons and The Lumineers, especially on the driving "Can't Be Broken" and "Kiss Me Darling." The best, hands down, is "Scraping Up the Pieces," where he and Zeldin rave like the American Pogues.

—Glenn Gamboa  
The Associated Press



### Lake Street Dive

Bad Self Portraits (Signature Sounds)

Lake Street Dive is an indie soul/jazz outfit, formed at the New England Conservatory of Music. The band won fans with TV appearances on "Late Show with David Letterman" and "The Colbert Report." During a Manhattan concert for the Coen brothers' film "Inside Llewyn Davis," Lake Street stopped the show with a subtly swinging but folksy take on "You Go Down Smooth," with vocalist Rachael Price leading.

There is rich revivalism in what Price, Mike Olson (trumpet, guitar), Bridget Kearney (upright bass) and Mike Calabrese (drums) do, a gutsy post-Beat-Gen sound with hints of Etta James for sass and class.

"Bad Self Portraits" has the brightness of a Mark Ronson/Amy Winehouse pairing, a light into the darkness, as in tracks such as "Bobby Tanqueray," in which Price's purr is at its cattiest. This is not, however, a one-woman show. Each band member writes songs, the instrumentation is magnificently unified, and songs such as "Seventeen" and "Stop Your Crying" are hand-clapping, harmony-filled call-and-response gems.

—A.D. Amorosi  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Front: Rachel Price; Back, from left: Mike Calabrese, Bridget Kearney and Mike Olson.

JANROO McCABE/Courtesy of Big Hattie Media

## WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



DISNEY/AP

Disney's "Frozen," now on DVD, features the voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad, Alan Tudyk and Jonathan Groff.

## NEW ON DVD

**"Frozen":** Anna (Kristen Bell) must find a way to thaw her sister's cold heart in this year's Oscar winner for best animated film. The production, based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen," has the successful Disney combination of a solid story, strong animation, breakout characters and memorable music. That's the blend that has worked for decades and continues to work here. The movie has the strongest soundtrack since the 1996 release of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

**"American Hustle":** A con man (Christian Bale) is forced to work for a wild FBI agent. Director David O. Russell has taken the emotional rawness central to his "Silver Linings Playbook" and added layers of seduction and corruption, painted against the excessiveness that was the late '70s, to create a production that's even more Oscar-worthy than "Playbook." Jennifer Lawrence turns in a performance as a passive-aggressive real-world answer to the Mad Hatter. **"Saving Mr. Banks":** Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) fights to get the rights from the author of the Mary Poppins books so he can make them into a movie. The overall strength comes from Hanks and Emma Thompson, who once again transform themselves to portray the spirit of their characters with such honesty and courage that the movie is never in danger of being a tale of Hollywood politics. Thompson brilliantly faces every challenge, from a quiet—but extremely toughing—moment when the author first sees the film to her unlikely connection with the man (Paul Giamatti) assigned to be her driver. Thompson finds that razor-sharp edge of being cantankerous while leaving enough room for her humanity to slip out as needed.

Also new on DVD: **"Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom":** Film based on Nelson Mandela's autobiography. Idris Elba stars.

**"Reasonable Doubt":** A lawyer throws a case only to find the man he helps free has some dark secrets.

**"Green Lantern: The Complete Animated Series":** Josh Keaton is the voice of Green Lantern in this 26-episode series.

**"Jeff Dunham: Ached and Savvy America":** Animated movie based on the comedian's characters.

**"Cybergeddon":** Chloe Jocelyn investigates a slew of seemingly unrelated cyber attacks.

**"Kill Your Darlings":** Recounts the pivotal year that changed Allen Ginsberg's life.

**"Monsters: The Complete Series":** TV series brings to life the monsters of which nightmares are made.

**"Tom Holland's Twisted Tales"**

**"20 Ft. Below: The Darkness Descending":** Dangerous world is hidden in shadows of New York's abandoned subway tunnels.

**"Almost Sharkproof":** Two friends risk it all to strike it rich. Jon Lovitz stars.

**"Kingdom of Conquerors":** A look at the rise of Genghis Khan.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

# The little blue birdie CHANGES TV

By DAWN C. CHMIELEWSKI  
AND YVONNE VILLARREAL  
Los Angeles Times

In Syfy's reality competition "Opposite Worlds," Twitter put unprecedented power in the hands of viewers, supplying them with the ability to reward popular contestants with a luxurious spa day while punishing others with a less savory task: cleaning human excrement.

The little blue birdie has fluttered into the writers' room at Fox's "Sleepy Hollow," inspiring one episode to address viewers' dismay, voiced loudly on Twitter, over the central character's Revolutionary War-era attire. For a humorous few moments, Ichabod Crane doffs his period costume for a pair of uncomfortably contemporary skinny jeans.

These shows are just a sample of the sorts of experimentation being done as network executives and producers navigate social media (and interactivity) to attract viewers to the living room TV and keep them engaged. About one-third of all prime-time shows employ "Twitter" element—from NBC's "The Voice," which lets viewers turn to Twitter to "save" performers whom judges have eliminated, to ABC's "Scandal," whose actors converse online with viewers as each episode is telecast. Twitter cemented its reputation as TV's favorite follower during the Oscar telecast when host Ellen DeGeneres' star-studded selfie set a record for most retweets.

In a nutshell: @Twitter is #trendingwithTV more than ever b4. "What has popped up in the last five years is TV viewers have a connection to show runners and actors that is more immediate and transparent," said Geoffrey Long, who explores transmedia experiences for University of Southern California's Annenberg Innovation Lab. "There's an active dialogue that is no longer heavily one-sided. We're still in the early stages of how that changes things."

The social network has carefully cultivated the Twitter-TV association. The San Francisco company forged a partnership with Nielsen to produce ratings based on the audience for TV-related conversations. It struck partnerships with major networks, including CBS, NBC, Fox and ESPN as well as with sports leagues. Advertisers similarly have jumped into Twitter's nest, with major brands including Budweiser, Coca-Cola, Doritos, Honda and H&M all incorporating Twitter hashtags as part of their Super Bowl ad campaigns.

"It's past experimental for many agencies. It's proven itself as a marketing at scale," said Mike Margolin, senior vice president of audience strategy for Santa Monica-based RPA, Honda's ad agency.

Twitter's head of television, Fred Graver, said 85 percent of the network shows that premiered last fall were accompanied by live tweeting, and 30 percent to 40 percent of prime-time shows



IN A NUTSHELL:  
@Twitter is  
#trendingwithTV  
more than  
ever b4.

continue to maintain a presence on the social network. Hashtags are plastered on corners of the TV screen, not-so-subtly guiding viewers on their episodic tweeting adventure.

Television network executives have sought to reach viewers on a variety of social media platforms, from Facebook to visually oriented sites such as Instagram and Pinterest. With some 241 million people using Twitter each month, networks have been encouraging actors such as Sarah Michelle Gellar of CBS' "The Crazy Ones" and Natasha Lyonne of Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black" to join the digital bandwagon to help build buzz; of course, not everyone has given way to peer pressure (some holdouts: Andy Samberg of Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," the cast of NBC's "The Blacklist").

Misha Collins, who plays the angel Castiel on the long-running CW drama "Supernatural," said social media has contributed to the show's longevity. He

said Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles, who play brothers following in their father's footsteps as demon hunters, cultivated a connection with fans when the show premiered in 2005. "Jared and Jensen started going to fan conventions early on. It fed this live interaction with the fans," said Collins, who has amassed a following of 1.3 million people on Twitter.

"When I came on, I started a Twitter account. That sort of moved that live interaction into the virtual environment."

And it's not just the stars—the creative minds behind TV's most popular shows have awoken from their deep slumber to the sound of the chirping. Some writers rooms have adopted Twitter accounts to engage

with viewers, cognizant of its pervasiveness and how it applies to 21st-century storytelling.

"It's become an essential part of our storytelling and our shows," said Alex Kurtzman, executive producer of "Sleepy Hollow." "There (once) was a distinction between that thing that used to be off to the side, and other people handled, and the way we're actually breaking stories in the room for the episodes that air on television. It's all part of the same process now."

The show's writers take turns tweeting during each broadcast, opening the door to the writers room and giving viewers insights into story choices and character motivation.

The writers pay attention to fan discussions—and in some cases, have introduced plot elements in response to comments about the show, a modern retelling of Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Crane's appearance in skinny jeans was a signal to the viewers that the writers were paying attention to their comments. "We all felt very strongly that it's like asking Superman to take off his cape. Then he's not Superman," Kurtzman said. "But there were so many people online who had so much to say about his clothes, we sat down in the writers room and tried to come up with creative ways to address those concerns."

The backlash on Twitter and on other online platforms was part of what prompted "The Good Wife" writers to wrap up more quickly a storyline involving Kalinda (Archie Panjabi) and her mysterious estranged husband in Season 4.

Long foresees a day when the format of the medium—140 or fewer characters—influences how beats of a story are told.

"I think what we're going to see more and more of, are TV writers thinking and writing in ways that lend themselves to quotability and spreadability," he said.

# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

**C**ombine Twister, paint-by-numbers and the ancient Hindu practice of breath control, meditation and poses, and you get Yoga by Numbers.

The approach — complete with a numbered mat — was designed by a Boston woman whose own health scare inspired her to put yoga in reach for people with physical limitations, tight schedules or other roadblocks to traditional practice.

The oversized yoga mat is dotted with big, numbered circles that look like the crosshairs in a rifle scope. The accompanying DVD gives true yoga beginners a step-by-step road map to learn the poses at their own pace.

Elizabeth Morrow was an athlete, a skier and soccer player who, two years ago, found herself hospitalized with a right lung full of blood clots, the lower lobe completely collapsed. When she was strong enough to start exercising again, she found even the easiest of yoga classes too taxing. She didn't have the stamina for an hour, couldn't hold the poses the way the instructor wanted.

So, the 32-year-old started thinking of ways to make it easier, more convenient and even more fundamental than the myriad DVDs already on the market.

"I was thinking about a paint-by-number kit where you don't need to be Picasso or van Gogh, you just follow what they tell you and you'll come out with something," she said. "I just wanted something that felt really accessible and doable for people. The image of the mat just popped into my head: 'Wow, I can do yoga by numbers as well.'"

The DVD tells users exactly which circle to put their hands and feet in and allows for advancement to more challenging poses.

Yoga by Numbers has been compared to Twister, the popular game with giant colored circles, spinning wheel and crazy, cross-limbed poses. But Morrow's cool with that, even when it comes from critics.

"I think it's awesome when they have that reaction because to me, that means they get it and they know how to use it," said Morrow, a certified yoga instructor.

Morrow has sold to people who live far from a yoga studio, those with tight schedules who need to squeeze in practice whenever they can, and people with health conditions. The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine reports that recent studies of people with chronic low-back pain suggest yoga can help reduce pain and improve function. Other research shows regular practice might reduce heart rate, blood pressure and stress and



## Yoga by Numbers

Specially designed mat helps beginners perfect poses

By RIK STEVENS | The Associated Press

might help relieve anxiety and depression.

"People who are older are using it because the DVD really focuses you on not contorting yourself into Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatics," Morrow said. She demonstrated the mat recently at her parent's house in Bow, N.H., about an hour north of Boston.

The latest "Yoga in America" study,

released by Yoga Journal, reported that 20.4 million Americans practiced yoga in 2012, compared to 13.8 million in 2008. They spent \$10.3 billion on classes and products, up from \$5.7 billion in the earlier survey.

Janet Lark teaches yoga in Ogden, Iowa, and had a bad experience with a poorly cut, asringent-smelling mat, so she started doing some research. She came upon Morrow's mat and was struck by how simple it was for novices.

"It truly was a 'Duh! Why didn't anyone think of that sooner?' moment," she said. "It is fantastic to notice how quickly the clients start to focus on making sure they are properly aligned."

Morrow, who worked in the nonprofit sector for several years, also hears from purists who poo-poo the mats as a gimmick.

"My response is that this is not a mandate," she said. "I think that if you're already practicing yoga and it works for you, that's great and I'm really excited for you. I'm interested in hearing from people for whom the system doesn't work."

A spokeswoman for the nonprofit Yoga Alliance, which represents teachers, schools and studios, said the ideal situation is to learn from a master teacher in private classes, but time and cost can be barriers.

"Any tool that helps people practice yoga is a good thing," said Katie Desmond. "And so we applaud Elizabeth's ingenuity in spreading the power of yoga by helping to make the process of learning yoga as a beginner more accessible."

Morrow patented the idea and sells the mats, made in the U.S. from sustainable rubber, for \$119.95 including DVD and carry strap. She started selling on The Grommet, a website that launches undiscovered products, then had a successful, online crowd-sourced campaign to raise more start-up funds.

She also registered the business as a benefit corporation in Massachusetts, which means she can write into the bylaws that the company's social mission takes precedence over the bottom line for shareholders.

Up next: She wants to focus on reaching kids, especially those at risk, and hopes to partner with social services providers. If she makes

money along the way, all the better.

"I think politicians sort of create this false dichotomy where you either have to be pro-business or pro-social program and that you can't do both," she said. "A lot of corporations want to put out the message that it's just not profitable, and that is just not true."

## Deciphering a dieter's temptations

By MARY MACVEAN  
Los Angeles Times

**I**f there's no caramel cheesecake, you're not likely to eat any. But plop one down on a table among a group of friends, and the forks come out. That's a simple scene that embodies some of the complex mechanisms that make it so hard for people to lose weight and keep it off.

Researchers in England who were trying to sort out what tempts dieters and what makes them give into temptation looked at a group of 80 people, mostly women, over seven days, giving them phones and apps to record instances of temptation: how they felt, what was happening and whether they took a bite or a sip.

Over the week, they recorded 898 instances of temptation.

Some of the factors the researchers reported last week were no surprise: Being around friends, late-night cravings and alcohol, and shopping for food when tired all have a major effect on keeping weight off for good.

But while some of those might seem obvious, the researchers are looking at exactly what's going on in an effort to develop ways to empower people to resist temptation. Would it help, for example, if you had a phone app to record your feelings every time you happened upon a bowl of chips or an ad for ice cream?

The findings help piece together the complex jigsaw surrounding the daily predictions of dietary temptations and help us to better understand how dietary temptations and lapses operate," the researchers wrote in the journal *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

The 80 participants were part of a weight-loss group or were dieting on their own. For a week, they were asked to fill out a phone diary each time they were tempted. The researchers said previous studies of willpower had been done in lab conditions; this one was done in "real" life.

The participants gave into temptation a little more than half the time, according to their diaries. They were particularly vulnerable at night and more likely to have an alcoholic drink than to eat a sugary snack.

British diettitians have ranked lack of willpower as more important to the development of obesity than genetics, the researchers said.

"In the fight against obesity, we need to help people become more aware of the various personal, situational and environmental factors that expose them to dietary temptations," the researchers wrote. And then, they said, they need to develop skills to cope.

One thing that appeared to help the dieters was an ability to focus on their long-term goals.

No surprise, they reported they were more aware of their eating because they were carrying around the phones.

Elizabeth Morrow of Boston designed a Yoga by Numbers mat that gives beginners step-by-step instructions to perform yoga poses.

PHOTOS BY JIM COLE/AP



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

# Finger paint decor

## Kids' art adds personal touch

By MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON  
The Associated Press

It's a conundrum many parents face: what to do with the steady flow of drawings, paintings, collages and more that children bring home from school and camp? Which are the keepers and — besides sticking them up on the refrigerator with magnets — how can you display them creatively?

"They caught me throwing some away, and they were not happy about it," Mandy Rose of Carterville, Ill., said of her three children.

Rose, who loves to decorate her house and writes about it at houseofroseblog.com, decided to combine some of her kids' work with professional pieces and family photos in a montage on her dining room wall. She even commissioned one of the kids to create a finger painting for an eye-catching frame she had bought.

"People always ask, 'Did your kids make that?'" she said. "It's a real conversation starter."

Children's art absolutely has a place in home decor and can add a welcome personal touch, said Esther Sadowsky, owner of Charm & Whimsy, an interior design firm in Jersey City, N.J.

"Sometimes my jaw drops when I see the work of my customers' children," she said. "Children's art displayed in a house — it's a home then."

Lisa Rose, she suggests displaying kids' works in art groupings. She often lays out the pieces on the floor so she and her client can visualize how they fit together.

"You can make a beautiful arrangement," said Sadowsky, who has a painting she made as a 12-year-old hanging in her own living room.

Rose laid out the items for her "gallery wall" on the floor as well. She snapped photos of various arrangements so she could compare them, and went through her house to find frames in the same color palette to create cohesion in the grouping.

Sadowsky has sent parents to big box stores or craft stores to buy inexpensive frames. It's possible to find frames with precut mats for a more professional look. Do-it-yourselfers also can use construction paper or foam core to create mats for artwork, she said.

In her children's playroom, Rose stringed wire between two hooks and allows the kids to pick and



DYNAMIC FRAMES INC./AP

Using frames that open from the front allows parents to easily change out their children's artwork. The frames also help preserve kids' masterpieces.



POTTERY BARN KIDS/AP

A hanging wire with clips is a temporary way to display children's art. It can be easily moved, creating a rotating gallery in the home.

choose what they want to hang up. The setup allows them to highlight favorite paintings and projects until they make something they like better.

Finding a temporary place like that to display work makes sense, agreed Jeffrey Cudlin, a professor of curatorial studies and practice at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. He routinely highlights the work of his 4-year-old son, Miles, at home to show him that the family values handmade art.

Cudlin uses binder clips to hang Miles' art in an ornate frame that usually hangs in his dining room; the clips mean he can rotate different pieces through the frame for an ever-changing display.

Deciding which pieces to keep long-term can be a challenge, Cudlin said. He looks for work that includes loved ones or commemorates a special event. He routinely frames

Miles' work and gives it to family members who are represented in the drawing.

He also finds that he appreciates many of his son's drawings more after he asks questions about them. The art provides insights into how the preschooler views the world, and helps preserve his thoughts, Cudlin said.

"His way of thinking about things — you're the way he experiences the world — you're not going to get that back," he said.

Carl Sankt, education coordinator of the Ohio State University Urban Arts Space in Columbus, recommends saving a child's pieces from various ages to create an artistic record of his or her growth.

"It is not only a special way to reminisce about your child's younger years, but a special way of embracing how much they have grown," she said.

## SPOUSE CALLS

# Military spouses weigh in on cuts

Concerns over shrinking military benefits are about much more than the commissary. After I wrote about my willingness to give up the commissary if it would prevent other benefit reductions, I asked some respected military spouses to weigh in on the impending spending cuts that will affect our community.

**Tara Crooks, Army wife and co-founder of Army Wife Network:** There is no winning side in this commissary argument. All arguing over who saves and who doesn't is doing is fueling the fire and distracting from more serious budget issues.

Our job at AWWN is to provide information and empowerment. If we, as military families, have to make choices, give us a list of what can be chosen, and then hear our collective voice on what we recommend to cut. Majority rules. Right now, we are just facing cut after proposed cut, and there are no bones, or choices, being thrown.

**Jeremy Hilton, Navy veteran, Air Force husband, military family advocate and co-founder of the KeepYourPromise Alliance:** After sacrificing for the past twelve years, we are being asked to sacrifice again, with cuts in compensation and benefits. The piecemeal approach DOD insists on taking creates a "drip-drip-drip" effect where families don't know when and where the next cuts are coming. Most don't even know if their husband or wife will have a job in six months.

The entirety of the process is creating a massive trust deficit between our military families and our leaders, both elected and in DOD. This is a threat to morale, retention and readiness.

What I or any one individual thinks about the commissary, BAH, Ticare or any other benefit, is frankly irrelevant. We need to better understand the collective needs of an entire generation of men, women and their families.

**Amy Bushatz, Army wife and managing editor of military.com's spousebuzz.com:** When I look at my husband's paycheck, which figures out to be around \$25 an hour, I feel disappointed. ... With nine years on the job, hundreds of hours of very specialized training, and oversight of millions of dollars in equipment, surely his value is higher than that.

When I factor in the value of our grocery savings from the commissary ... what we would be paying in the civilian sector for health care and the value of his retirement package, I feel a little better. Not much better, but a little.

Closing the stateside non-rural commissaries that not even every veteran or family uses may seem on the surface like a fair trade if it means keeping intact some of the other, bigger benefits like retirement. But in my reckoning, it's not acceptable for us to do away with any part of the non-compensation package. Losing even one of them makes the math of this life, well, fuzzy.

**Rebekah Sanderlin, Army wife and freelance writer, who serves on the advisory boards of the Military Family Advisory Network and Blue Star Families:** In discussing the military budget, it's important for everyone to remember that even if the 'war' is over, the war is not really over. For many years to come, those who have served and those who love them will be fighting the war after the war and a smaller number of troops will continue to fight, but will do so with less support and fewer recruits ...

Politicians are heralding the smaller, lighter capabilities of special operations troops and suggesting that these unconventional warriors be used even more often, including long term in Afghanistan. Problem is, with such dramatic cuts to conventional forces, who will support the smaller, lighter missions?

Just as importantly, special operations troops are recruited from conventional forces. When conventional forces are trimmed, special operations will have fewer troops to select from, meaning they will not be able to be so picky — a situation that leaves us all with not only a smaller defense force, but a weaker one, as well.

Complete comments are available on Spouse Calls online at [stripes.com/blogs/spouse-calls](http://stripes.com/blogs/spouse-calls).

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at [spousecalls@stripes.com](mailto:spousecalls@stripes.com) or at [stripes.com/go/spousecalls](http://stripes.com/go/spousecalls).



Terri Barnes

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY  
By JEREMY NEWTON / Edited by Will Shortz

### ACROSS

- 1 So over  
7 Touching words?  
14 Gently floats  
19 "Seinfeld" cohort  
20 1965 R&B #1 song with the repeated lyric "Can't you see that I'm lonely?"  
22 "Too rich for me"  
23 "He bested Leonidas at Thermopylae"  
25 Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"  
26 Medicinal qty.  
27 Dashed ID  
28 Monitor setting, for short  
29 Balloon  
31 "Off-roader, often plays in  
36 Stuff in sacks  
39 Flying fisher  
40 Roughhousing  
41 Joker  
44 Glassfuls in restaurants  
45 Country buggy  
47 Places for studs  
48 Air  
49 \*Annual draw for snorcross fans  
52 Union leader  
53 Close up  
54 Like Advil or Aleve. Abbr.  
55 "That may be true, but ..."  
57 It's low for gas guzzlers: Abbr.

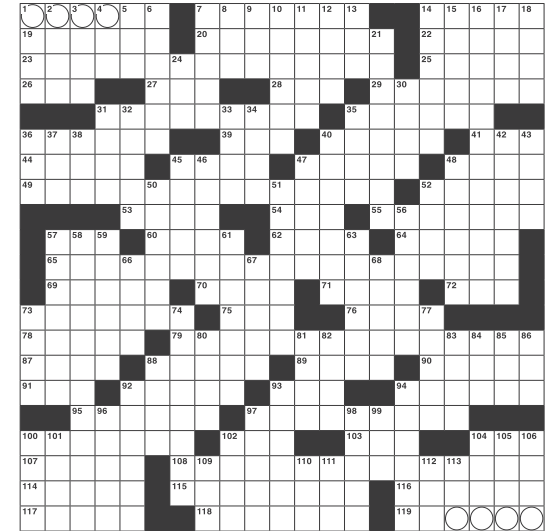
- 60 Home to King Harald V  
62 ... good  
64 Doesn't bring up  
65 \*Iconic feature of comedy  
69 Line at the Louvre  
70 Bomb shelter?  
71 Sub side, maybe  
72 D.D.E. challenger  
73 "Revenge R Us" author  
75 Suffix with peace  
76 Bent beam  
78 Biting remark?  
79 \*Founder of "Marvel's School for Gifted Youngsters"  
87 Of two minds  
88 TALK LIKE THIS!  
89 Teen headache  
90 Got back to, in a way  
91 Prefix with cycle  
92 Give one's O.K.  
93 Google datum  
94 Robed performer  
95 "Nothing seems to go my way"  
97 \*Frequent problem faced by algebra students  
100 Pump up  
102 Chichi getaway  
103 A street drug, briefly  
104 Rural call  
107 Stoop  
108 \*Horror flick starring Humphrey Bogart as a mad scientist, with "The"

- 114 Something LOL-worthy  
115 Water, wryly  
116 Canadian coin named for a bird  
117 "The Project" (Fox comedy)  
118 In hot water?  
119 Thrive

### DOWN

- 1 Something dirty kept in a cell?  
2 ... de la Société  
3 Complain, complain, complain  
4 "Kid-tested" breakfast cereal  
5 50/50  
6 "Admit it!"  
7 L's birthplace  
8 Shot caller  
9 Danger for Indiana Jones  
10 Spring river breakup  
11 Siren, say  
12 Not so great  
13 Member of the music industry's former Big Four  
14 Part of a Napa Valley tour  
15 Whack-  
16 With 5&-Down, a patient process? ... or a hint to two consecutive letters in the answer to each of the seven starred clues  
17 What one might go for a splish in?  
18 Any "cha" in the cha-cha-cha

- 21 How lines of latitude run  
24 Mount Zion's land: Abbr.  
30 Couples  
31 Scratch, say  
32 Rest stop  
33 "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind" per H. P. Lovecraft  
34 Cousin of a gazelle  
35 Drink with two lizards in its logo  
36 Club  
37 "Bleah!"  
38 Have second thoughts about  
40 "Clueless" and "Bridget Jones's Diary"  
42 Sponsorships  
43 Serengeti prey  
45 Put away for safekeeping  
46 Hugs and kisses, at times  
47 Paint variety  
48 Type-A friend from "Friends"  
50 One turning to the right  
51 Lose everything  
52 Certain bean  
56 Hair-razing stuff!  
57 Loud beast heard in theaters  
58 See 16-Down  
59 Bambooed  
61 Like gathering storm clouds  
63 No-holds-barred  
66 ... and Thummin' (sacred Judaic objects)



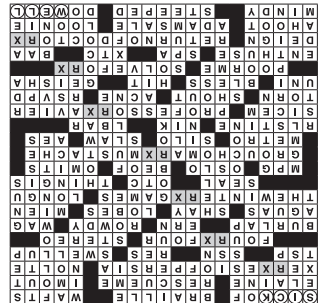
- 67 "Need ...?" (query to hitchhikers)  
68 Baron's blade  
73 Things're 18 to 21  
74 They're here and now  
77 More pink, perhaps  
80 It can be prickly  
81 Jib, e.g.  
82 John Candy's old comedy program  
83 Motor with some muscle  
84 You might get stuck with them  
85 Book after Galatians: Abbr.  
86 Nutritional info  
88 Photographs' choices  
82 It may help catch a fugitive  
93 Like Brando's Don Corleone  
94 Disappear, as a trail  
96 "Good heavens!"  
97 Eject, as froth  
98 Retired govt. agent  
99 Co. making arrangements  
100 Dutch wheels  
101 Member of the old Chero-Cola product line  
102 "Chop-chop!"  
104 Radius, e.g.  
105 Seed casing  
106 Jump on ice  
109 Jet crew, briefly  
110 Quick time-out  
111 Scream at a ring  
112 Bit of love talk  
113 Drag

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit <http://gunstonstreet.com>.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



**HARLAN COBEN**  
**MISSING YOU**

NYPD Detective Kat Donovan is consumed by an investigation that challenges her feelings about everyone she ever loved—even her father, whose long-ago murder has never been fully explained. With lives on the line, Kat must venture deeper into darkness than ever before.

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## FACES

# 'Divergent' star likes to hug it out

By NICOLE EVATT  
The Associated Press

**S**haileene Woodley is known for her hugs. The 22-year-old "Divergent" star gives hearty embraces — often more than one — to everyone she meets.

"It's very disarming," said co-star Theo James in a recent interview. "She (first) hugged me at our test. Yeah, she's a big hugger."

It's not just her co-stars who feel the love. Woodley also hugs nearly every journalist she meets during interviews or on a red carpet.

Woodley and James star in the anticipated first film adaptation of the young adult trilogy by author Veronica Roth.

"Divergent" follows 16-year-old Tris (Woodley) as she finds her place in a future dystopian society where people are separated into groups based on their virtues.

Ashley Judd and Tony Goldwyn play Tris' parents in the film, now in theaters.

Judd said she and Woodley have their own special, two-sided squeeze so they "both get heart."

"It was about 6 o'clock in the morning on my first day of work," recalled Goldwyn of his first Woodley hug. "We were driving over together and she leapt out and gave me a long hug. I was like 'wow.'"

Unfortunately for "Divergent" actor Ansel Elgort, his first encounter did not go as well.

"My first Shaileene hug was when I met her for the audition, and I was taken by surprise," Elgort said. "I thought maybe she knew me or something, or, I don't know, and I didn't really hug her back, really. I was like, 'oh hey,' and gave her a couple pats and said, 'it was nice to meet you.' And to this day she tells me that she wasn't sure she's going to like me or not because I didn't hug her back. She thought I might not be a real grounded person."

Was Elgort able to make amends?

"Yeah, now when I see her I make sure every time to give her a very long, truthful hug," he said.



Kate Winslet, left, and Shailene Woodley arrive at the premiere of "Divergent" in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Woodley is notorious for hugging.

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

## Coldplay's Chris Martin to help on 'The Voice'

Coldplay singer Chris Martin is bringing his expertise to NBC's music competition show "The Voice."

The network said Martin will participate in the "battles" round that begins March 31, advising singers on vocal technique and stage presence. The singers are vying for the attention of their team coaches, who must decide who gets to move on in the show.

"The Voice" has established itself this season as the most popular of the music shows, eclipsing the long-running champ "American Idol" on Fox.

The guest role is good promotion for Martin and Coldplay, which is releasing a new album in May.



Chris Martin

## Other news

■ Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda will be clocking in together once again. The actresses, who co-starred in the classic 1980 workplace comedy "9 to 5," will team up again in "Grace and Frankie," a new single-camera sitcom for Netflix. It will have 13 half-hour episodes.

■ "The Last of Us" won the top honor at the Game Developers Choice Awards. The post-apocalyptic survival saga created by developer Naughty Dog for the PlayStation 3 picked up the game of the year trophy Wednesday at the 14th annual ceremony. "The Last of Us" also won the awards for best design and narrative. Other winners included "Grand Theft Auto V" for best technology, "The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds" for best handheld game and "Gone Home" for best debut.

■ An attorney for Tyler, The Creator says the Odd Future rapper did not incite a riot at a show during South By Southwest last week and would not deliberately put fans at risk. Tyler was arrested Saturday at the airport as he left Austin, Texas, after police issued a warrant. Police say he was charged with misdemeanor riot and alleged he incited a crowd of fans to storm the entrance to the club where he was performing.

■ Emmylou Harris has reached a deal with Penguin imprint Blue Rider Press to write a yet-untitled book, aimed for publication in the fall of 2015. It's the first book for the Country Music Hall of Fame member. Harris also is re-releasing her 1996 album "Wrecking Ball" on April 8 as a three-disc set with new material and a DVD.

■ The New York City medical examiner has ruled the death of fashion designer L'Wren Scott a suicide. An autopsy completed Wednesday on the body of 49-year-old Scott found that she died of hanging.

From wire reports

# Sons unite to create new Roy Orbison song

By CHRIS TALBOTT  
The Associated Press

Roy Orbison's three sons are all musicians but never really got to play music with their dad — until now.

Wesley, Roy Jr. and Alex Orbison have helped create a new song by their father that will appear on the 25th anniversary re-issue and expansion of Orbison's final album, "Mystery Girl."

They found an old vocal track for a song called "The Way Is Love" originally recorded on a boombox and were able to reclaim it using technology that had to be created to accomplish the work.

They then added new instrumentation with the help of another son of a music legend, co-producer John Carter Cash.

"It really brought us closer together in a lot of ways," said Alex Orbison, 38, who contributed



AP

When music legend Roy Orbison was honored with a star posthumously on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2010, family members — from left, sons Wesley, Alex, wife Barbara Orbison, and Roy Jr. — turned out. Orbison's sons — all musicians — have crafted a song from an old vocal track by their father.

drums and backing vocals to the track.

"We were able to finish it up

and get it out by Father's Day, too, which was obviously special to us."

"Mystery Girl" will be re-released May 20 with "The Way Is Love," one of nine previously unheard songs. Alex Orbison also directed a documentary.

Roy Orbison was going through a career renaissance at the time he released "Mystery Girl." The "Oh, Pretty Woman" singer had just earned a new round of attention working with Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynne and Tom Petty in The Travelling Wilburys and was excited about the new album.

It included contributions from Lynne, Petty and most of his Heartbreakers, Bono and the Edge of U2, Elvis Costello and many other friends. His wife, Barbara, acted as his manager at the time and even sang backup on the album. Wesley Orbison wrote a song as well.

Roy Orbison died two months before its release in February 1989 at age 52.



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## OPINION

## Can't explain Social Security with scraps

By MICHAEL HILTZIK

Los Angeles Times

**A**lby Huntsman is really, really upset about Social Security. We know this because the television presenter, a daughter of former GOP presidential contender Jon Huntsman, went on an extended rant about it Thursday on MSNBC's "The Cycle." The show is aimed at a younger audience of news consumers, and Huntsman, 27, is one of the four youthful co-hosts.

She thinks Social Security is going bankrupt, leaving her and her generation with nothing. "This is infuriating," she said, bouncing up and down in her chair like a petulant toddler, "because none of our elected officials seem to care enough to do anything about it."

Unfortunately, almost everything she said about Social Security in the name of making it "sustainable" for her generation was wrong.

Dead wrong.

Huntsman wants to tell it like it is, but she fails because of a lack of information. And if her generation believes what she said, it's going to be in deep trouble.

A lot of her spiel resembles the rants issuing from the mouth of former GOP Sen. Alan Simpson, 82, a veteran foul of Social Security misinformation — which shows that error and ignorance are no respecters of age. Most of it has been debunked so thoroughly and repeatedly that one is tempted to believe that the misrepresentations are deliberate.

But as a follower to Huntsman and her generation, we'll set her straight. Again.

The core of Huntsman's plaint is that life expectancies in the U.S. have risen so sharply since 1935, when Social Security was enacted, that its current financial structure can't handle the change. Her figures are that average life expectancies for men have risen from 58 in 1935 to 76 in

2014, and for women from 62 to 80 in the same period.

"While we're living about two decades longer, we haven't made any real change," she said.

Huntsman makes the familiar error of confusing life expectancies from birth with the figures that actually matter to Social Security — life expectancies from age 65 when retirements typically have begun. (Under the law, the normal retirement age is rising; it will be 67 when Huntsman retires.)

Life expectancies from birth have indeed risen as she says, though the latest statistics available are from 2009, not 2014. But the difference there is almost entirely a result of improvements in infant mortality since 1935.

The change in life expectancies from age 65 is much lower. In 1935, a 65-year-old man was expected to live, on average, to about 77 and a woman to about 78. In 2009, the figures were about 83 for men and 85 for women. That's an extension of six to seven years, not two decades.

And as economist Dean Baker observes, Social Security's fiscal structure accommodates that. The payroll tax has increased from 2 percent (shared between employer and employee) at its inception to 12.4 percent today.

That additional revenue covers not only the great expansion of the program's benefits over the decades but also America's changing demographics. However, to exaggerate those demographics, Ms. Huntsman, is to do a serious disservice to your audience.

Other thing: Life expectancies are very sensitive to social and economic status. Average life expectancies from age 65 for black men, for instance, have increased by less than five years since 1935. If you raise the normal retirement age to 75, as Huntsman advocates, you are condemning

some of these workers to barely any retirement at all.

"Here's the reality," Huntsman declares (to Social Security advocates, this is usually a sign that a real blunder is on its way, and she doesn't disappoint): "At the rate we are spending, the system will be bankrupt by the time you and I are actually eligible to get these benefits. ... Would you rather have 90 percent of what you have today, or nothing at all?"

She concludes: "We might disagree about the prescription for the ailing patient, but doing nothing about it — that will lead to none for all, rather than at least some for us."

Where Huntsman got this idea is a mystery because no one who understands the program, from progressive supporters of Social Security to its conservative critics, says anything like that.

The most dire projections of the program's future say that "doing nothing about it" — no benefit cuts, no tax increases — will leave the program still able to pay 75 percent to 80 percent of scheduled benefits. Not "nothing at all." And that 75 percent to 80 percent would still be much more per month 75 years from now than retirees get today.

By the way, it's also untrue that President Barack Obama's budget plan makes "no mention of entitlement reform. None," as Huntsman claims. His budget proposes a very damaging cutback in Social Security disability, as well as changes to Medicare payment formulas to save money.

Huntsman has stitched her spiel together out of scraps and tatters of misinformation, of a sort we've heard from the older generation for years. They're no more accurate coming out the mouth of a millennial. But it's tragic to see that what she's learned from her elders is how to mislead her public.

Michael Hiltzik is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

## Flexible work arrangements killed by 'reform'

By JAMES SHERK

**M**illions of salaried workers may soon lose flexibility in how they work. President Barack Obama plans to cover them under federal overtime regulations. This won't raise their pay. It will, however, effectively convert them into hourly workers — putting the kibosh on the flexible work arrangements many employees value.

Hourly employees get paid time-and-a-half for working more than 40 hours a week. However, under the "white collar exemption," businesses can pay many salaried employees for getting the job done, not simply for the hours they're logged. To qualify for this exemption, an employee must make more than a minimum salary, work in a professional field, and have sufficiently advanced responsibilities.

Obama plans to raise the salary threshold to expand eligibility. He has not yet said to what level, but observers close to the White House have suggested \$51,000 a year. If so, every salaried worker making less than that amount would qualify for overtime and would have to track their hours.

On the surface, this sounds great. Every worker wants workers to earn more. But these regulations will not accomplish this. Changing overtime eligibility does not actually raise workers' pay. Why not? Most employers will compensate by cutting salaries an offsetting amount.

Businesses responded exactly this way to overtime eligibility lawsuits. IBM, for example, recently gave several thousand

**IBM recently gave several thousand salaried technical workers overtime as part of a legal settlement. The company also cut their base salaries by one-seventh.**

salaried technical workers overtime as part of a legal settlement. The company also cut their base salaries by one-seventh. The workers' take-home pay remained the same.

But while changing overtime regulations will have little effect on workers' total earnings, it will affect how businesses do their bookkeeping. Unfortunately, these changes will prohibit many popular work arrangements. It would effectively turn millions of salaried employees into hourly workers.

Workers eligible for overtime cannot get paid for their results and productivity. The employer must log their hours and pay for time on the job. While this presents few difficulties for workers in a fixed workplace (like a store), it makes much less sense for professional employees who can work anywhere. Today millions of salaried employees check their work email on their smartphones, or telecommute from home.

Many employees value this flexibility,

especially working parents. For example, an investigative reporter might leave work early to attend his son's baseball game. Between innings, he might email sources to set up interviews. Then, after putting his son to bed, he could continue writing at home on his laptop. Such flexible work arrangements help parents balance their work and family lives.

Technological advances now give millions of Americans the freedom to work remotely. Nonetheless, most employers deny overtime-eligible workers this flexibility. They must track time worked or risk expensive lawsuits over back pay.

Research shows a third of large firms have curbed telecommuting because of overtime lawsuits. More than half have restricted the use of smartphones from home. The head of HR for Pitney Bowes, a large manufacturer, recently told the press the company wants to let sales-support employees work from home. They had to turn down the request; the employees qualified for overtime and the firm could not track their hours remotely. Did this benefit the workers?

The president may have good intentions, but goes into detail not reveal the law of unintended consequences. Expanding overtime will do little to raise overall pay. Plus, it ignores the changing nature of work in the economy. Salaried workers do not need the government encouraging their employers to become less flexible about how they work.

James Sherk is a senior policy analyst in labor economics at The Heritage Foundation.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Help young illegals in court  
The (Henderson, Ky.) Gleaner

Until about three years ago, federal agents annually intercepted 8,000 unaccompanied minors entering the United States illegally. By last year, the number had jumped to nearly 26,000. This year's projection: As many as 60,000 youngsters may attempt to cross into this country without parents or papers.

This surge of underage humanity presents two problems.

First is understanding the forces propelling it, which experts say include narcotics trafficking, Central American gang violence and abusive homes. It's sensible to seek a regional approach to a humanitarian issue that is beyond the power of a single government to control. ...

The second problem the U.S. faces is what to do with the youngsters once they get here. Unlike people charged with criminal offenses, those detained on immigration violations do not have the right to a court-appointed attorney during deportation proceedings, so if the detained person can't afford a lawyer, he or she often faces the judge alone.

The issue is compounded when the defendant is a child. Often the children can't even understand the language, let alone the process, which means there is a very real chance that minors who qualify for asylum or other protections are being booted out of the country without a fair hearing.

The federal government should develop a system under which unaccompanied minors have access to a lawyer or experienced advocate (as happens in child-welfare court proceedings) to defend their interests.

Replicate SEALs' efficiency  
Tampa (FLA.) Tribune

Three cheers for the U.S. Navy's courageous commandos, who Monday thwarted an attempt by a rogue Libyan militia to sell stolen oil on the black market. The Pentagon said President Barack Obama authorized the Mediterranean intervention Sunday night. Within hours, a Navy SEAL team on the guided missile destroyer Roosevelt had boarded and taken control of the Morning Glory in the Mediterranean near Cyrenaica.

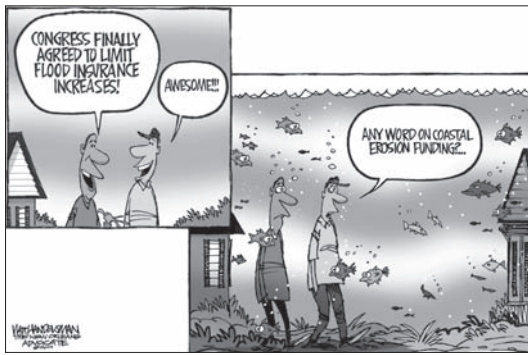
No one was injured in operation, which was executed with the characteristic SEAL efficiency.

It was a rare show of resolution by an administration that has often appeared uncertain, if not impotent, during the recent international crises that have stretched from Crimea to Venezuela. ...

The tanker, according to the Pentagon, had been stolen by three armed Libyans this month and then sailed into Sidra flying the North Korean flag, although the government in Pyongyang immediately denied any connection to the tanker or the plot to sell the stolen oil.

Apparently the militia had hoped to find a buyer somewhere in the Mediterranean and use the proceeds to enhance its standing in the ongoing conflict with the new government in Tripoli that has been struggling since a latter-day Rabin Hood, stealing since Moammar Gadhafi's brutal dictatorship was overthrown in 2011.

The Navy described the capture of the tanker as a blow to the political ambitions of a militia leader named Ibrahim Jathran, who is said to portray himself as something of a latter-day Rabin Hood, stealing from the government in order to improve



the lives of those under his command. But the crisis was also a threat to Americans and other foreigners with a financial stake in the Libyan oil business.

That the Navy stepped in to thwart Jathran's bold scheme is a welcome triumph for the United States at a time when success on the international front seems increasingly hard to achieve. But the action should not mislead anyone. The president needs a foreign policy that demands respect even when the SEALs are not involved.

Ukraine should've kept nukes  
The Wall Street Journal

The damage to world order from Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea will echo for years, but one of the biggest casualties deserves more attention: the cause of nuclear nonproliferation. One lesson to the world of Russia's cost-free carve-up of Ukraine is that nations that abandon their nuclear arsenals do so at their own peril.

This story goes back to the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's nuclear arsenal was spread among the former Soviet republics that had become independent nations. Ukraine had some 1,800 nuclear weapons, including short-range tactical weapons, air-launched cruise missiles and bombers. Only Russia and the U.S. had more at the time and Ukraine's arsenal was both modern and highly survivable in the event of a first strike.

The U.S. was rightly concerned that these warheads could end up in the wrong hands, and the Clinton administration made controlling them a foreign-policy priority. The result was the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in which Ukraine agreed to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and return its nuclear arsenal to Russia in exchange for security "assurances" by Russia, the U.S. and United Kingdom. Those included promises to respect Ukraine's independence and sovereignty within its existing borders, as well as refraining from threatening or using force against Ukraine.

Contrast that with the current crisis. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron have blasted Russia for its clear violation of the Budapest accord, but those U.S. and U.K. assurances have been exposed as meaningless. That lesson isn't lost on Ukraine, but it also won't be lost on the rest of the world.

Had Kiev kept its weapons rather than giving them up in return for parchment promises, would Vladimir Putin have been so quick to invade Crimea two weeks ago? It's impossible to know, but it's likely it would have at least given him more pause.

Ukraine's fate is likely to make the world's nuclear rogues, such as Iran and North Korea, even less likely to give up their nuclear facilities or weapons. As important, it is likely to make non-nuclear

powers and even close U.S. allies wonder if they can still rely on America's security guarantees.

Assaults erode respect for rank  
The Seattle Times

So-called privileges of rank have taken on a perverse meaning in the U.S. military. Stunning facts of sexual assault at the highest levels of the service betray the grievous breadth of the abuse.

The U.S. Senate last week unanimously adopted changes in the military-justice system to protect victims when they step forward to report the crimes, and how those investigations and prosecutions are handled. New avenues of appeal were created in instances where military commanders refuse to proceed with sexual-assault charges. Earlier, the Senate failed to agree on legislation to strip commanders of that discretion.

Indignation over that legislative outcome may well have empowered last week's victory. This latest effort builds on changes made in 2013 that require civilian review of decisions not to prosecute, eliminate a statute of limitations for court-martial in rape and assault cases, and criminalize retaliation for filing reports of assault.

The military has a crushing public-relations problem on its hands that could haunt recruitment and retention of personnel. Failure to protect men and women who have volunteered to defend their country is shameful. The willingness of the system to protect its own is disgraceful, if grimly predictable.

Erosion of respect for rank has consequences for unit cohesiveness and the basic willingness to work together, and indeed, follow orders. ... Imagine what it is like for young enlisted personnel and junior officers with virtually no one to turn to for help.

Elemental changes in attitudes and workplace conditions are needed to make the regulations approved by the Senate have full meaning. ... What the public sees now is the privileges of rank come with some vulgar assumptions about what can be done without accountability or penalty.

CIA must be held to account  
San Antonio Express-News

It's tempting to note on how the shoe is on the other foot for the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The latest news on who's spying on whom has the CIA accused of doing just that on the committee that provides its civilian oversight. A few months back, the National Security Agency was in the spotlight and the committee seemed loath to rein it in from its spying on U.S. citizens.

President Barack Obama in January announced a series of reforms after revelations of NSA spying — sparked by leaker Edward Snowden — caused a firestorm. A plan to end the NSA's collection and stor-

age of Americans' telephone communications is due on March 28.

But this latest revelation is an equally serious matter. At issue is whether the CIA tried to thwart the oversight Americans need.

In an extraordinary speech recently, the chairwoman of the intelligence committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., charged that the agency had secretly removed documents from a computer used by her staff investigating the CIA's interrogation program.

The Senate investigation into a program that clearly involved torture has resulted in a 6,300-page report. It's still secret. It should be made public as soon as possible.

As part of this Senate investigation, the CIA provided a computer network independent of the agency's own. Into that, it dumped the documents the committee needed, numbering into the millions. But afterward, committee staffers, Feinstein said, discovered that some documents that had clearly been in the system had been removed. The CIA has charged that Senate staffers got unauthorized access to an internal review of the detention program. Feinstein says the document was part of the document.

Meanwhile, the CIA director denies that spying occurred. The Justice Department is now left to sort it out, along with the CIA's inspector general.

If these charges are true, Fourth Amendment rights and the executive prohibition on CIA domestic spying have been violated. Suffering the biggest injury, however, would be the U.S. separation of powers that requires the congressional oversight.

With Snowden's disclosures and the anemic responses, public trust in this oversight has already suffered. We await the results of investigations, but the very fact that one of the intelligence community's most ardent supporters has made these charges does nothing to refurbish this trust.

Feinstein was right to go public.

Still need flood insurance fix  
The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger

In an act of compassion, the government will postpone reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program. Premiums skyrocketed beyond anyone's expectations, and still-suffering Hurricane Sandy victims faced being priced out of their homes. Families were desperate for relief, and lawmakers provided it.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign a four-year moratorium this week. But this delay, while humane, leaves in place a broken system that is \$26 billion in debt and encourages property owners to build — and rebuild — in the riskiest flood zones. Congress must ensure that its reforms, designed to make us more resilient after devastating storms, aren't undone.

What the moratorium is that the law being shelved — the 2012 Biggert-Waters Act — was a rarity: a bipartisan solution to a complicated, long-term problem: Because government subsidizes flood insurance premiums artificially low for decades, the National Flood Insurance Program has been underfunded. After Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, the government was forced to borrow billions from taxpayers to cover the claims. Biggert-Waters increased insurance rates so that, over time, premiums would match the risk.

But the new high-insurance bills began arriving last fall, sticker-shock in plain sight. Homes were suddenly unaffordable and impossible to sell at full price. So while the short-term bailout was crucial, it didn't solve the underlying problem: If property owners don't pay higher premiums, the National Flood Insurance Program's four-year delay is long enough for Congress' reforms to be forgotten or overturned. ...

Softening the blow for homeowners was humane, but Congress should study alternatives to help keep low- and middle-income families from being priced out. Biggert-Waters can't be allowed to fade away.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Toyota fined \$1.2B, admits deception

By DANIELLE DOUGLAS  
AND MICHAEL A. FLETCHER  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Toyota Motor lied to regulators, Congress and the public for years about the sudden acceleration of its vehicles, a deception that caused the world's largest automaker on Wednesday to be hit with a \$1.2 billion Justice Department fine.

Prosecutors say Toyota's efforts to conceal the problem and

to protect its corporate image led to a series of fatalities that could have been prevented. The settlement is being called the largest criminal penalty imposed on a car company in U.S. history.

Toyota said in the settlement that it misled Americans by making deceptive statements about the safety problems that caused its vehicles to speed up uncontrollably, a stark admission for a company that has built its brand on safety and reliability.

Early on, Toyota suggested that driver error was to blame, saying that some people may have hit the gas when they meant to hit the brake. Even after issuing recalls to address problematic floor mats that in some cases pinned down accelerators, the company had a flawed gas pedal design that it knew did the same thing, according to documents accompanying the agreement.

The deal is a victory for the government and could serve as a

model for a case against General Motors, which is under investigation by Congress, safety regulators and federal prosecutors for taking more than a decade to issue a recall for an ignition-switch problem it has linked to 31 accidents and 12 deaths.

"Companies that make inherently dangerous products must be maximally transparent, not two-faced," said Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 21)	\$1.4152
Dollar buys (March 21)	69.7066
British pound (March 21)	\$1.69
Japanese yen (March 21)	99.00
South Korean won (March 21)	1,047.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6487/6.6065
Canada (dollar)	1.1269
China (Yuan)	6.2277
Denmark (Krone)	6.4560
Egypt (Pound)	6.9618
Euro	\$1.3752/0.7271
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7539
Hungary (Forint)	226.94
Israel (Shekel)	3.4821
Japan (Yen)	99.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2816
Norway (Krone)	5.0862
Philippines (Peso)	45.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.05
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7593
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2773
South Korea (Won)	1,082.12
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8854
Thailand (Baht)	32.43
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2340

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, etc.), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.66

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.784	\$3.947	\$4.108	\$4.240
Change in price	+3.5 cents	+3.6 cents	+3.6 cents	-1.8 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.738	\$5.035	\$5.042
Change in price	--	-6.7 cents	-7.1 cents	-7.1 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.882	\$4.043	\$4.175
Change in price	--	+3.6 cents	+3.6 cents	+1.8 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.482	--
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
U.K.	--	\$3.929	\$4.099	\$4.266
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.445	\$4.108*
Change in price	--	--	--	+1.8 cents
Italy	\$3.989	--	--	\$4.229
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

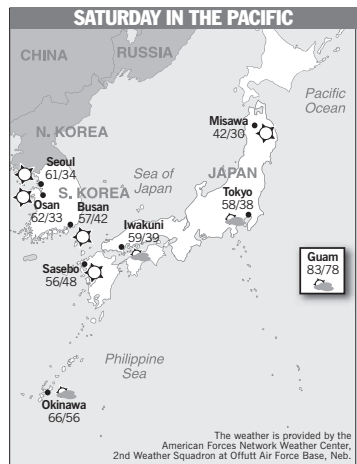
Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.668	--	\$3.999
Change in price	--	+3.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.539	--	--	\$3.999
Change in price	+3.0 cents	--	--	+2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.799	--	\$4.129	\$4.279
Change in price	+3.0 cents	--	+4.0 cents	-2.0 cents
Guam	\$3.749**	\$3.959	\$4.119	--
Change in price	+4.0 cents	+4.0 cents	+4.1 cents	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of March 22-28

### MARKET WATCH

March 19, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	-114.02
	16,222.17
Nasdaq composite	-25.71
	4,307.60
Standard & Poor's 500	-11.48
	1,860.77
Russell 2000	-9.38
	1,195.66

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures											
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	84	50	Cir	Chatanooga	73	38	Cir	Fort Wayne	57	32	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	51	27	Cldy	Chicago	58	34	Cldy	Fresno	78	54	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	40	29	PCldy	Cincinnati	64	35	Cldy	Goodland	51	29	Cldy
Albuquerque	69	39	Cir	Cleveland	49	27	Cldy	Grand Rapids	48	24	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	50	28	Cir	Colorado Springs	51	30	PCldy	Great Falls	24	15	Cldy
Amarillo	62	42	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	73	39	Cir	Green Bay	40	21	Rain
Anchorage	31	17	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	74	42	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	67	36	PCldy
Asheville	65	31	Cir	Columbia, Mo.	60	33	Cldy	Hartford	53	30	PCldy
Atlanta	70	42	Cir	Concord, N.H.	41	25	PCldy	Hartford	53	30	PCldy
Atlantic City	53	30	Cir	Cornhusk Christi	77	59	Cldy	Helena	30	21	Cldy
Austin	65	35	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	75	52	Cldy	Honolulu	81	72	PCldy
Baltimore	56	32	PCldy	Dayton	61	33	Cldy	Houston	75	52	Cldy
Baton Rouge	77	49	PCldy	Denver	76	56	PCldy	Huntsville	72	38	PCldy
Bilings	32	25	Cldy	Des Moines	56	38	Cir	Indianapolis	43	21	PCldy
Birmingham	72	40	Cir	Des Moines	56	38	Cir	Jacksonville	75	49	PCldy
Bismarck	34	28	Snow	Detroit	44	25	Cldy	Jacksonville	75	49	PCldy
Boise	59	25	Cir	Duluth	59	24	Snow	Juneau	38	23	PCldy
Boston	45	32	PCldy	El Paso	81	54	Cldy	Kansas City	63	41	PCldy
Bridgeport	50	30	Cir	Elkins	55	28	Cldy	Key West	81	71	Cir
Brownsville	81	60	Cldy	Erie	41	26	Cldy	Knoxville	69	38	Cir
Buffalo	39	25	PCldy	Eugene	55	32	PCldy	Lake Charles	72	50	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	37	31	Cir	Evansville	68	39	PCldy	Lansing	46	25	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	35	27	Cir	Fairbanks	24	-6	Cir	Las Vegas	77	53	PCldy
Casper, Wyo.	35	19	Cldy	Fargo	59	38	Snow	Lexington	65	36	PCldy
Charleston, S.C.	73	44	Cir	Flagstaff	58	27	Cir	Lincoln	57	34	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	66	37	Cir	Flint	45	21	Cldy	Little Rock	74	44	Cldy
				Fort Smith	74	42	PCldy	Los Angeles	66	56	Rain

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Wed., 85, Riverside, Calif.  
Lo: Wed., 11, Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.



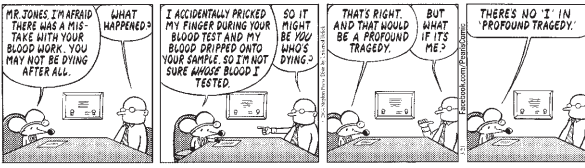
Frazz



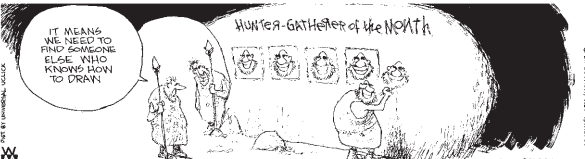
Dilbert



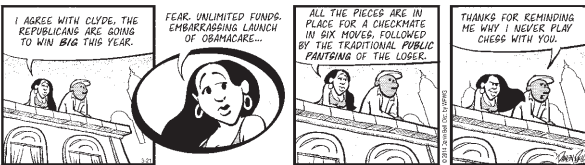
Pearls Before Swine



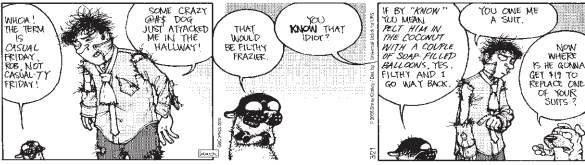
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



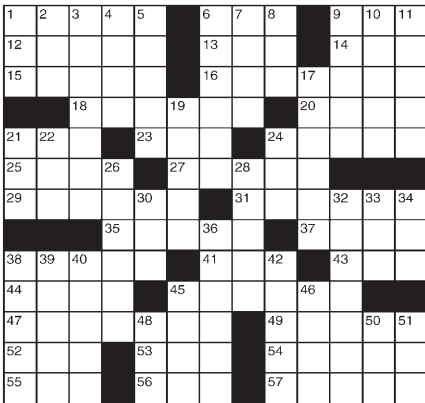
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Sped
- 6 Craze
- 9 Purse
- 12 Memorable mission
- 13 Hearty brew
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Custom
- 16 Sally Bowles' workplace
- 18 Speaks sheepishly?
- 20 Lisa's brother
- 21 Doc's org.
- 23 "No seats" sign
- 24 Five dozen
- 25 Swine
- 27 Angry
- 29 Satisfy
- 31 Polar sight
- 35 No-Hitter pitcher Ryan
- 37 Gilbert of "The Talk"
- 38 Ornate
- 41 Japanese salad plant
- 43 Foundation
- 44 Hexagonal state
- 45 Graft's doubles partner?
- 47 Last car
- 49 Hiawatha's transport
- 52 Charlemagne's realm (Abbr.)
- 53 Evergreen type

### DOWN

- 1 "Go, team!"
- 2 Carte intro
- 3 Coleslaw basis
- 4 Early Oscar winner Jannings
- 5 Loves too fondly
- 7 "Oh, woe!"
- 8 Society newbie
- 9 Common cleanser
- 10 On the qui vive
- 11 Big name in oil
- 17 Tolerates
- 19 The little mermaid
- 21 Download of a sort
- 22 Wire measure
- 24 Moment
- 26 Quixote pal Panza
- 28 Sorta
- 30 Sauce source
- 32 Advisory panel
- 33 Exist
- 34 Cushion
- 36 Boring tools
- 38 Botanist Leonhard
- 39 Video game pioneer
- 40 Local theaters
- 42 Trash can dweller
- 45 Largest continent
- 46 Long story
- 48 Vacationing
- 50 Single
- 51 Schedule abbr.

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-21

### CRYPTOQUIP

W QPYXFGZ IJ XPITBWXVYGZ  
DBWTTWAL IPCG PDD YFG  
FWLF MTHWALQPVHZ, VAZ

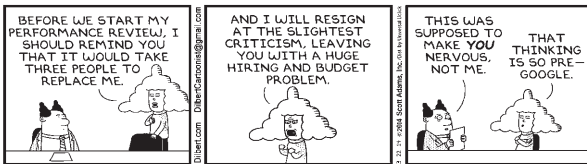
IJ FVHZ ZWCG XHVMFGZ.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEN PALS USE SWEARWORDS IN THEIR LETTERS, I WOULD CALL THOSE CORRESPONDENCE CURSES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F

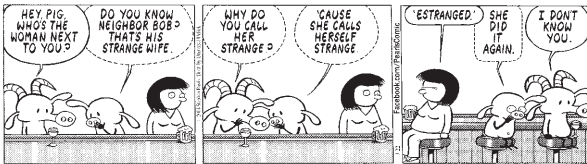
Frazz



Dilbert



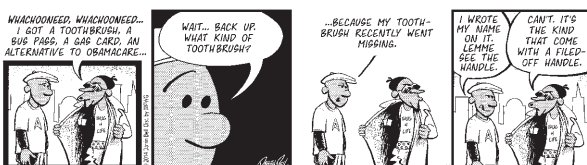
Pearls Before Swine



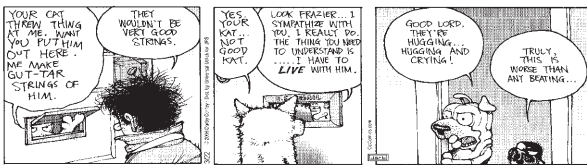
Non Sequitur



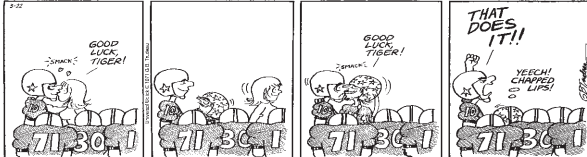
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



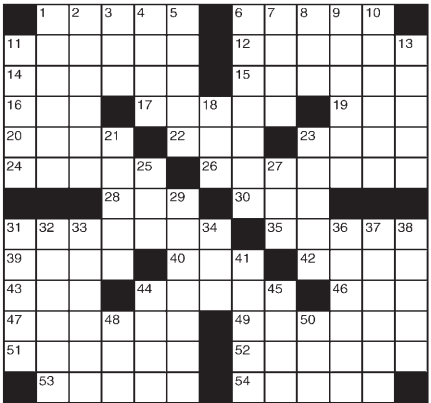
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Big parties
- 6 Wahine's welcome
- 11 Make
- 12 France's FBI
- 14 Port
- 15 Globetrotters' home?
- 16 Blackbird
- 17 Pacific island group
- 19 — tai
- 20 — a Kick Out of You"
- 22 Video shooter, for short
- 23 Kevlar garb
- 24 Quark + antiquark
- 26 Arguments
- 28 Aries
- 30 Pop
- 31 Hair cleaner
- 35 Singer Wainwright
- 39 Last word in "The Wizard of Oz"
- 40 La-la lead-in
- 42 Pizzazz
- 43 Time of your life?
- 44 Sponge
- 46 Genetic stuff
- 47 "I, Rhoda" author
- 49 "Family Feud" host
- 51 — of (envelope phrase)
- 52 Knees' counterparts
- 53 Stitched

- 54 Uses a teaspoon

### DOWN

- 1 Farm
- 2 High nests
- 3 Science venue
- 4 On
- 5 Glacial ridge
- 6 Embarrassed, and then some
- 7 Waikiki winding
- 8 Bobby of hockey lore
- 9 Skateboarder's safety aid
- 10 Relaxed
- 11 Author Potok
- 13 Discharges
- 18 Boy
- 21 "The Velvet Fog"
- 23 Liechtenstein's capital
- 25 Entry on baby's agenda
- 27 Tavern
- 29 Drove
- 31 Sarah of "Person of Interest"
- 32 Navajo dwellings
- 33 Punish by fining
- 34 Acapulco gold
- 36 Heat
- 37 "Time" competitor, for short
- 38 Remains
- 41 Ruets the run
- 44 Unadorned
- 45 Sentry's command
- 48 Handle roughly
- 50 Diamond star

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-22

### CRYPTOQUIP

ADPLOJ NDQQSP KS RHPAYB  
ALNXDNNSA HOB JVNNLQB  
ZVQLXN HZ HYY. LZ KHN

H NXHOAHY-YLJZR ALOOSP.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I BOTCHED MY COMPLICATED FLIPPING MOVE OFF THE HIGH SPRINGBOARD, AND MY HARD DIVE CRASHED.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals A

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# SPORTS

## Sports on AFB

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## Tennis

### Sony Open

**At The Tennis Center at Grandon Park Key Biscayne, Fla.**  
Purse: Men, \$5.65 million (Masters 1000); Women, \$5.42 million (Premier) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles

### Men

Thiemo De Bakker, Netherlands, def. Victor Hanesku, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.  
Adrian Panu, Romania, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 6-1.  
Alexandru Pascariu, Romania, def. Nikolay Davydov, Russia, 7-6 (4), 7-5.  
Matthew Ebden, Australia, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.  
Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Michal Przyszycki, Poland, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 7-5.  
Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, def. Marco Granoles, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.  
John Isner, United States, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 7-6 (3), 6-2, 7-5.  
Julien Benneteau, France, def. Kyle Edmund, Britain, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-2.  
Jiri Benes, Czech Republic, def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (1).  
Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, def. Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-2, 7-5.  
Radek Stanek, Czech Republic, def. Daniel Brands, Germany, 6-3, 6-0.  
Dominic Thiem, Austria, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-0.  
Horia Zeballos, Argentina, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 7-6 (3), 6-4.  
Jiri Benes, Czech Republic, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3).  
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (0).  
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Andrej Golubev, Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

### Women

Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, def. Karin Knapp, Italy, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.  
Nadia Petrova, Russia, def. Estrella Cabeza Candela, Spain, 6-3, 6-0.  
Venus Williams, United States, def. Victoria Duval, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-1.  
Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, def. Katarina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-0.  
Olga Govortsova, Belarus, def. Shahar Pe'er, Israel, 6-3, 6-0.  
Vincenzo Razzano, France, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 6-3, 6-0.  
Dominic Thiem, Austria, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, 7-6 (2), 6-2.  
Joko Vandeweghe, United States, def. Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, 6-4, 7-6 (0).  
Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-4, 4-2, retired.  
Nadia Petrova, Russia, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4.  
Peng Shuai, China, def. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-0.  
Lauren Davis, United States, def. Zheng Li, China, 6-2, 6-3.  
Christina McHale, United States, def. Zheng Li, China, 6-4, 6-3.  
Andreja Petkovic, Germany, def. Maria Sharapova, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.  
Alja Tomljanovic, Croatia, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 7-6 (4), 6-4.  
Zarina Dijas, Kazakhstan, def. Alexandra Cadantu, Romania, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.  
Zarina Dijas, Kazakhstan, def. Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.  
Czech Republic, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-3, 6-4.  
Yvonne Meusburger, Austria, def. Yulia Kichenok, Ukraine, 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.  
Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, def. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, 6-3, 6-2.

## Boxing

### Fight schedule

**March 21**  
At Villa La Nata Sporting Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Juan Carlos Reveco vs. Manuel Velaz, 12, for Reveco's WBA super flyweight title.  
At Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, California, Vanya Martynov vs. Mario Alberto Lozano, 10, for the vacant WBO inter-continental light middleweight title. Anthony Peterson vs. Marcos Jimenez, 10, lightweight.  
**March 22**  
At Roberto Duran Arena, Panama City, Panama, Anselmo Moreno vs. Juan Carlos Chacon, 12, for Moreno's WBA super flyweight title.  
**March 23**  
At Tokyo, Denkozen Kaovitch vs. Kovich, 12, for vacant WBA World super flyweight.  
**March 28**  
At 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, New Town, S.D., "Boxino" lightweight tournament. David Petris vs. Chris Petrov. Miguel Gonzalez vs. Fernando Carcamo (6 rounds).

## College basketball

### Men's NIT

#### First Round

Tuesday, March 18  
Robert Morris 89, St. John's 78  
Florida State 88, Florida Gulf Coast 53  
Georgetown 77, West Virginia 65  
Belmont 80, Green Bay 56  
Minnesota 88, High Point 81  
Clemson 85, Davidson 78  
Arkansas 91, Indiana State 76  
Missouri 85, Georgia Tech 80  
Saint Mary's (Calif.) 70, Utah 58  
Illinois 66, Boston University 62  
Indiana Tech 89, Long Beach 66  
SMU 66, Vermont 56  
Georgia Tech 66, Toledo 59  
Georgia 68, UC Irvine 54  
LSU 71, San Francisco 63  
California 74, Utah Valley 64

#### Second Round

Friday, March 21  
Robert Morris (22-13) at Belmont (25-9)  
Sunday, March 23  
Southern Miss (28-6) at Missouri (22-11)  
Saint Mary's (Calif.) (23-11) at Minnesota (21-13)  
Monday, March 24  
Georgetown (35-14) at Florida State (20-13)  
Clemson (21-12) vs. Illinois (20-14)  
Arkansas (22-11) vs. California (20-13)  
Louisiana Tech (28-7) vs. Georgia (20-13)  
SMU (24-9) vs. LSU (20-13)

### CBI

#### First Round

Tuesday, March 18  
Siena 66, Stony Brook 55  
Ohio State 75, Texas Tech 67  
Penn State 68, Hampton 66  
Eastern Michigan 65, South Dakota State 65  
Texas A&M 59, Wyoming 43  
Princeton 56, Tulane 55  
Illinois State 77, Morehead State 67  
Fresno State 51, UTSA 49  
Quarterfinals  
Monday, March 24  
Penn State (15-17) vs. Siena (16-17)  
Ohio State (18-15) vs. Radford (22-12)  
Texas A&M (17-15) vs. Illinois State (18-17)  
Fresno State (18-16) vs. Princeton (21-18)

### CIT

#### First Round

Tuesday, March 18  
VMI 111, Kansas 107  
Wright State 73, East Carolina 59  
Eastern Michigan 58, North State 54  
UTSA 79, Chattanooga 66  
Quarterfinals  
Monday, March 24  
San Diego 87, Portland State 65  
Tulane 69, Quinnipiac 68  
Yale 63, S.C. Upstate 66  
Eastern Michigan 65, South Dakota State 62  
IPFW 87, Akron 59  
Murray State 65, Missouri State 63  
Nebraska-Omaha 91, North Dakota 75  
Cincinnati 86, Coastal Carolina 82, North Carolina 72

#### Second Round

Friday, March 21-Saturday, March 22

### NCAA Men's Division II tournament

#### Quarterfinals

At Evansville, Ind.  
Wednesday, March 26  
S. Connecticut vs. Central Missouri

### Pro hockey

#### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	69	47	17	5	99	223	149
Tampa Bay	69	38	24	7	83	203	181
Toronto	70	38	25	7	83	180	177
Florida	71	36	27	8	80	208	219
Ottawa	68	31	24	13	75	178	190
Carolina	68	28	27	13	69	194	229
Atlanta	69	26	35	8	60	172	223
Buffalo	69	19	42	8	46	133	205

#### METROPOLITAN DIVISION

Philadelphia	68	36	25	7	79	195	195
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Columbus	68	35	27	6	76	196	187
Washington	70	33	27	10	76	204	209
New Jersey	69	29	27	13	71	168	180
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	189

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Central Division

Louis	69	47	15	7	101	226	156
Chicago	70	40	15	15	95	237	182
Colorado	70	44	20	6	94	216	192
Minnesota	69	36	23	10	82	171	168
Illas	68	32	25	11	75	194	197
Michigan	71	33	30	0	73	190	200

#### Pacific Division

Pacific Division						
Anaheim	69	45	17	7	97	220 175
San Jose	70	45	18	7	97	216 168
Los Angeles	69	38	25	6	82	168 148
Phoenix	69	33	25	11	77	192 196
Vancouver	72	32	30	10	74	172 194

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Tuskegee vs. Metro State  
Drury vs. West Liberty  
Cal State Chico vs. S. Carolina Aiken

### NCAA Men's Division III tournament

#### At Salem, Vt., Valley Center Semifinals

Friday, March 21  
Wisconsin-Whitewater vs. Illinois Wesleyan

#### Championship

Saturday, March 22  
Semifinal winners

### Women's NIT

#### First Round

Wednesday, March 19  
Villanova 74, Quinnipiac 66  
George Washington 86, East Carolina 66

#### Second Round

Thursday, March 20  
Minnesota 62, Green Bay 60  
Montana 90, Washington State 78

#### Quarterfinals

Friday, March 21  
IUPUI (22-9) at Central Michigan (20-11)  
High Point (22-10) at Bowling Green (27-4)

Beaumont (14-17) at Indiana (18-14)  
Furman (18-12) at Auburn (17-14)  
Butler (15-15) at South Dakota State (15-15)  
Delaware (20-10) at Rutgers (22-9)  
VCU (24-7) at Princeton (20-8)  
Stetson (26-7) at Miami (16-18)  
NYU (24-7) at Old Dominion (17-13)  
Marquette (21-10) at Indiana State (20-11)

Southern (20-12) at SMU (17-13)  
Butler (15-15) at South Dakota State (15-15)  
Missouri (17-13) at Creighton (19-13)  
Ball State (18-16) at Northwestern (15-15)  
Lamar (20-10) at Mississippi State (19-13)  
Alabama (18-12) at Southern Miss. (26-6)

Cal Poly (18-13) at San Diego (22-8)  
Southern Utah (22-9) at Colorado State (25-7)  
Pacific (18-12) at Oregon (15-15)  
Stony Brook (24-4) at Michigan (18-17)  
Mount St. Mary's (19-13) at Duquesne (19-12)  
Charlotte (15-15) at St. Bonaventure (23-10)  
North Carolina A&T (24-6) at South Florida (19-12)

St. Louis 82, Baylor 66  
Arkansas State (22-11) at UTSA (24-7)  
New Orleans at Washington (17-13)

### NCAA Women's Division II tournament

#### Quarterfinals

At Erie, Pa.  
Tuesday, March 18  
Limestone vs. West Texas A&M  
Nova Southeastern vs. Concordia-St. Paul  
United States vs. Drury  
Edinboro vs. Cal Poly Pomona

### NCAA Women's Division III tournament

#### At St. Louis, Mo., Wis. Friday, March 21

Tufts vs. FDU-Florham  
Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

#### Saturday, March 22

Semifinal losers  
Championship winners  
Semifinal winners

### Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3  
Ottawa 4, St. Louis 1  
Winnipeg 5, Colorado 4, OT  
Vancouver 2, Nashville 0

### Thursday's games

Minnesota at New Jersey  
Dallas at Philadelphia  
Columbus at Montreal  
Tampa Bay at Ottawa  
Pittsburgh at Detroit  
Buffalo at Edmonton

### Friday's games

Toronto vs. Philadelphia (53 at Clearwater, Fla.)  
Detroit vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.  
Philadelphia (52) vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.  
St. Louis vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.  
Atlanta vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

### Saturday's games

Atlanta at Toronto  
Brennox at Minnesota  
Washington at Denver  
Milwaukee at Sacramento  
Dallas at Dallas  
Cleveland at New York  
Orlando at A. Lakers

### Sunday's games

Portland at Charlotte  
Chicago at Cleveland  
Philadelphia at Chicago  
San Antonio at Minnesota  
Miami at New Orleans  
Orlando at Utah  
San Antonio at Golden State  
Detroit at A. Lakers

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Brennox at Minnesota  
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Milwaukee at Sacramento  
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Cleveland at New York  
Orlando at A. Lakers

### Tufts vs. FDU-Florham

Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

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### Championship winners

### Semifinal winners

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Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

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### Tufts vs. FDU-Florham

Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

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### Championship winners

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Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

### Semifinal losers

### Championship winners

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Milwaukee at Sacramento  
Dallas at Dallas  
Cleveland at New York  
Orlando at A. Lakers

### Sunday's games

# HIGH SCHOOL

## Weekend peek

# Perry girls ready for tougher test

Samurai 'psyched' to host Yokota; Falcons also have most challenging match to date

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

They've won their first seven matches quite handily, but mostly against Division II-equivalent Western Japan Athletic Association opponents.

Now comes what coach Suzanne Lopez calls the "first big test" for M.C. Perry girls soccer team against a DODDS-Japan Division I foe: Yokota, which comes calling on the Samurai this weekend.

"My fingers are crossed," Lopez said. "The girls are psyched. They're a little nervous, but I think they're excited."

They have reason to be, after the best start in school history. And where the goal ledger is concerned, youth is definitely being served.

There's Bobbi Hill, a freshman whose older brother starred, with 10 goals and five assists in the young season. Ani Erhart, a 6-foot sophomore, has clipped in with seven goals and veterans Dina Roman and Sasha Shibazaki have a combined seven.

But it's how they're scoring and playing that has Lopez pleased.

"We're working a lot more on moving the ball around quickly," she said, adding that in years past, the Samurai would use the outside lanes before pushing the ball to the center. Now, there are a lot more one-touches and other quick changes in direction.

"We've been able to have better control of the ball," Lopez said. "If they can't make the one-touch, we want the girls to have a couple of moves up their sleeves to get open and be available for the ball."

A solid veteran core has been at the center of another team that's started strong. Seoul American's boys, who won their first two matches but put that record on the line Friday at their league arch-rival Seoul Foreign, which has also started strong at 7-0.

Because the Crusaders, who have three players with six or more goals, have had more pitch time, Falcons coach Steve Boyd feels that they would have the upper hand.

"We'll see what we can do and let the chips fall where they may," he said. "It's a big rivalry."

HoKyung Adkins, one of several seniors who've helped the Fal-



CJ MITCHELL/Special to Stars and Stripes

Seoul American senior midfielder HoKyung Adams, left, shown playing against John Gong of Yongsan International-Seoul, is one of five veterans populating what Falcons coach Steve Boyd calls a "powerful" midfield, including Jason Lee, Ben Mitchell, Andrew Clark and Allen Choi.

cons start strongly, is "by far the best player on the pitch," Boyd said. "He has the jets, the knowledge and the skills."

Adkins is also part of a mid-field group laden in veterans like Andrew Clark, Jason Lee, Allen Choi and Ben Mitchell.

"That's pretty powerful," Boyd said.

On Saturday, Okinawa becomes the second district to open track season, and coach Jon Fick of reigning Far East Division I champion Kubasaki says his team is anxious to get going after three weeks of practice.

"And to compete; that's why we're here," Fick said. "It's a new

year. You're seeing athletes in their events and see which young kids and new kids step up and see where they fit."

It's a Dragons team looking to shore up a roster ripped by graduations and transfers, especially in the distance ranks. Fick is hoping youngsters such as sophomores Jonathan Johnson and Johan Wright and veterans Rahman Farnell and Tristan McElroy can make up the shortfall.

"We're looking for some of the younger kids to step up. It will be interesting to see how they do," Fick said.

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## Schedule

### Japan

#### Boys soccer

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

Yokota at Perry, Zama at King, Edgren at Kinnick

#### Girls soccer

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

Yokota at Perry, Zama at King, Edgren at Kinnick

Monday, March 24

Yokosuka Storm at YIS

### Baseball

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

Edgren at Yokota, Perry at Kinnick

### Softball

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

Edgren and King at Yokota, Perry at Kinnick

### Track and field

Saturday, March 22

Kanto international schools and DODDS at Yokota

### South Korea

#### Soccer

Blue Division

Friday, March 21

Seoul American at Seoul Foreign, Daegu at Taejeon Christian

Saturday, March 22

Daegu at SA, Humphreys at Osan

### Baseball

Saturday, March 22

Osan at Daegu

### Softball

Saturday, March 22

Osan at Daegu, Osan vs. HHS at Daegu

### Okinawa

#### Boys soccer

Saturday, March 22

Kadena at Nago, 9:30 a.m.

Higashi at Kubasaki, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26

OCl at Kadena, 5 p.m.

#### Girls soccer

Saturday, March 22

Itoman at Kubasaki, 11 a.m.

Shuri at Kadena, 3 p.m.

Misato at Kubasaki, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26

Kadena at Okinawa Christian, 5 p.m.

### Track and field

Saturday, March 22

Zion Christian, OCl and Kubasaki at Kadena, 9 a.m.

### Golf

Monday, March 24

Kadena vs. Kubasaki at Taiyo, 3 p.m.

### Baseball

Saturday, March 22

Kubasaki at Kadena, 10 a.m.

### Softball

Saturday, March 22

Kubasaki at Kadena, 1 p.m.

## Game of the week

## Boys soccer: Seoul American (2-0) at Seoul Foreign (7-0)

When — 5 p.m. Friday.

Where — Crusaders Field, Seoul Foreign School.

What — First regular-season meeting between the only remaining unbeaten teams in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division boys standings.

Players to watch — The host Crusaders, fourth in last year's KIAIC Five-Cities Division regular-season standings and postseason tournament, got out of the gate in style behind Armaan Amin-

Jahaveri (nine goals), Francesco Luraschi (three goals, five assists), Hans Lee (seven assists) and Kai Summers (seven goals, seven assists). The Falcons won the KIAIC 5CD regular-season title last year and lost the tournament final; they won their first two matches this season behind a senior-laden corps, including HoKyung Adkins (four goals, two assists).

— Stars and Stripes

## Three more key matchups

### Girls soccer Yokota at Perry

Friday and Saturday

at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni

The Samurai got off to an unbeaten start, but mostly against small-school foes; this will be the first major test for a group getting big production from freshman Bobbi Hill (10 goals, five assists), with support from Ani Erhart (seven goals, three assists), Dina Roman (four goals) and Sasha Shibazaki (three goals, two assists). This will be the Panthers' first match; they're the last to open the DODDS-Japan season.

### Track and field Okinawa four-team meet

Saturday

Zion Christian, Okinawa Christian and Kubasaki at Kadena. First of six four-way meets for the host Panthers, second at Far East Division I; Kubasaki, the reigning D-I champion; and Zion, which swept D-II titles last year. Sprinters Rahman Farnell and Jarrett Mitchell begin their final season at Kubasaki.

### Baseball Edgren at Yokota

Friday and Saturday

After taking the third of a three-game road trip 10-5 last Saturday at Kinnick, the two-time defending Far East Division I champion Eagles, with new-found pitching hopes in Izzy Leon and Isaac Victorino, are hoping for more success as they move deeper into the DODDS-Japan season.



Dave Ornauer

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## HIGH SCHOOL/MLB

# More soccer teams kicking things off

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

The staggered start to the DODDS Europe soccer season continues this weekend as close to a dozen schools take the field for their boys and girls openers.

Last Saturday, the official first day of the spring campaign, saw just a handful of games, mostly in Italy. Despite its small scale, the weekend was relatively eventful. Most notably, the two defending Division II champions — the Naples girls and Marymount boys — opened with convincing routs over Saturday rivals.

The race in Italy heats up further this weekend. American Overseas School of Rome, a strong runner-up to Marymount in last year's boys Division II tournament, debuts with a visit from a worthy adversary in Naples.

Division III hopefuls Florence and Sigonella, meanwhile, face off in Sicily hoping to land an early blow on a primary divisional rival.

In Germany, four Division I contenders kick off their seasons with games against smaller Division II opposition Saturday. Kaiserslautern is the only large school on the road as the Raiders make the short trip to Baumholder.

Ramstein will host Bitburg,

Wiesbaden will welcome Black Forest Academy and Patch entertains Ansbach.

Barring an upset, the weekend should represent a painless launch for the four big schools. All four of the schools posted regular-season records better than .500 last season, while none of their Saturday opponents did.

While Germany's schedule is fraught with mismatches, more equitable competition can be found to the north.

Defending Division I champion International School of Brussels gets its rebuilding project off the ground with a tough game at Division II SHAPE. Though it's an interdivisional matchup, ISB's young roster and SHAPE's annual elite status in Division II should serve to even the playing field.

AFNORTH is the busiest program to play this weekend with a Friday opener at Brussels followed by a Saturday visit from new Division II peer Alconbury.

Even as they start to gather momentum, DODDS Europe teams can already look forward to a pause. Spring break arrives the weekend of April 12, just three weekends into the season for most teams.

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## Games of the week

### Baseball and softball: Vilseck at Ramstein

The Royals, reigning champions on both DODDS Europe diamonds, dive immediately into their respective title defenses on Saturday. The Falcons' visit to Ramstein represents the only matchup of Division I program on the five-game first-weekend schedule.

The games should be worthy of the opening-day spotlight. Vilseck fields a quality squad on both fields, and a slow start on either could lead to a stunning season-opening upset for the favored home team.

The Vilseck baseball team lost two of the best pitchers in Europe over the summer with the exits of John Bohrmann and Tarnier Fox. But while the PCS season did its damage, Vilseck also benefited from the flip-side of that annual dance. Coach Dan Soula reports an influx of new talent into the program and the new recruits and six returning varsity players could coalesce into a contender.

Even better, a lot of the Falcons' talent is at the crucial infield spots, where more than a few DODDS Europe teams tend to boot away winnable games. Junior first baseman Kurt Hall, senior second baseman Robert Ryan, junior shortstop Josh Platt and sophomore third baseman Brad Patterson give the Falcons reliable sentries around the horn.

In contrast to that promising group, the Vilseck softball team will deploy players of the more familiar variety. Atop that list is senior Kayla Clamage, the first-team All-Europe pitcher who emerged as one of the continent's most dominant pitchers in 2013. Two fellow seniors, middle infielder Beth Siatini and utility player Brittany Richardson, anchor the Falcon defense and the batting order.

Ramstein's rosters are too stacked to be scared of any DODDS Europe opponent. But the collection of talent disembarking the bus from Vilseck on Saturday should at least catch the Royals' attention.

# Reds' Chapman gets plate in head after hit

By BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman underwent surgery Thursday to repair a broken bone above his left eye but has no other serious injuries after being hit in the face by a line drive in a spring training game.

Team doctor Tim Krenchek called Chapman "a very lucky guy."

Krenchek said a metal plate will be inserted in the bone and will remain there permanently. He said Chapman has a very mild concussion but no other brain injury and no injury to his eye.

Kansas City's Salvador Perez lined Chapman's 99 mph fastball into the pitcher's face in Wednesday night's game. Chapman collapsed to the ground, moaning in pain and kicking his feet, then was taken off the field by stretcher.

Catcher Bryan Pena was with Chapman Thursday morning and says the pitcher was in good spirits.

Perez appeared to be in tears as he left the field, and first baseman Eric Hosmer hugged him. Perez quickly left the clubhouse without speaking to reporters. Hosmer hit a line drive off the head of Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb last June. Cobb sustained a concussion.

Playing right field, Reds teammate Jay Bruce heard the ball hit Chapman.

"It was one of the more frightening and non-fun moments I've been a part of on the baseball field," he said.

After Chapman was driven off to the waiting ambulance, Price and Royals manager Ned Yost met with the umpires. The exhibition was called after an 8-minute delay with Kansas City leading 6-3.

"It was really a mutual agreement," crew chief Chris Guccione said. "Players were rattled. The staff was rattled. The umpires were rattled. We figured it was best, along with both teams in agreement that the game should end."

Chapman, who throws a 100 mph fastball, had walked four Royals in the inning before being injured.

The two-time All-Star had 38 saves for the Reds last season.

When reporters walked into the Royals clubhouse, third baseman Mike Moustakas asked a team official to request that they leave.

"No one wants to talk," Moustakas said.

In January, Major League Baseball approved a protective cap for pitchers following several terrifying scenes similar to this one in the last few years, including Toronto's J.A. Happ, who sustained a skull fracture.

The heavier and bigger hats were available for testing during spring training on a voluntary basis, but the cap apparently would not have helped Chapman.

## Schedule

Baseball and softball	Soccer	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Bitburg at Ramstein
Baumholder at SHAPE	AFNORTH at Brussels	Kaiserslautern at Baumholder
Wiesbaden at Bitburg	<b>Saturday</b>	BFA at Wiesbaden
Vilseck at Ramstein	Alconbury at AFNORTH	Ansbach at Patch
Hohenfels at Ansbach	ISB at SHAPE	Naples at AOSR
Naples at Sigonella		Florence at Sigonella

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## NFL/MLB



RON JENKINS, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

The Denver Broncos signed pass rusher DeMarcus Ware along with a slew of other free agents in an attempt to stay ahead of the New England Patriots atop the AFC.

## Pats, Broncos wage war in free agency

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Two months after meeting in the AFC championship, the Denver Broncos and New England Patriots are squaring off in the wine and dine game.

They've been the conference's most aggressive teams in trying to upgrade their rosters in free agency.

After watching Seattle win the Super Bowl, both Denver and New England have focused on beefing up their defenses.

New England added two cover cornerbacks and Denver signed three Pro Bowl defenders.

Broncos general manager John Elway, who committed \$66 million in guaranteed money to four players in the first week of free agency, acknowledged the additions of safety T.J. Ward, cornerback Agib Talib, pass rusher DeMarcus Ware and receiver Emmanuel Sanders weren't made in a vacuum but with the Patriots in mind.

"You always know you have to go through New England," Elway said. "If you look at their track record the last 10 years, they're a team that you're going to have to be able to deal with. And for us to be able to get done what we want to get done, you have to be able to beat them."

"So, it's kind of a fun arms race and we'll see what happens next year."

For the second straight offseason, the Broncos added a player from the Patriots' roster, luring Talib a year after they cajoled Wes Welker to leave Tom Brady for Peyton Manning.

The Patriots responded by signing cornerback Darrelle Revis, who was released by Tampa Bay, and then added cornerback Brandon Browner, who spent the past three seasons with the Seahawks.

Browner missed the Super Bowl while serving a suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy and must sit out the first four regular-season games in 2014. He can participate in offseason activities, including training camp and pre-season games.

The Broncos lost wide receiver Eric Decker to the New York Jets but they signed Sanders, a speedy wide receiver formerly with the Pittsburgh Steelers, to a three-year, \$15 million pact.

After losing Brady's top target to the Broncos last year, the Patriots were in danger of losing Brady's favorite receiver again this spring but wide receiver Julian Edelman re-signed with New England on Tuesday after testing the free agent market.

Edelman, who caught a career-high 105 passes with six touchdowns last season, signed a deal reportedly worth \$17 million over four years two days after the Patriots added wide receiver Brandon LaFell, who became a free agent after catching 49 passes in his fourth NFL season, all with the Panthers.

Elway's primary focus was rebuilding his defense.

With the release of Champ Bailey saving the Broncos \$10 million and the retirement of Chris Kuper giving them another \$4.1 million savings, Elway had lots of financial flexibility and he signed:

- Ward for four years and \$22.5 million to play strong safety with Rahim Moore returning to free safety.

- Talib for \$57 million over six years to play cornerback opposite Chris Harris Jr., who's coming off knee surgery.

- And Ware for \$30 million over three years to rush the passer and mentor Von Miller and Quarterus Smith.

## Rangers' Andrus grizzled vet at 25

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
The Associated Press

**E**LVIS Andrus arrived at the Texas Rangers' spring training camp rested after his longest offseason without playing any games, and with a beard reminiscent of Abraham Lincoln's.

Maybe that bit of presidential motif is appropriate. The 25-year-old shortstop does have some top billing in the Texas clubhouse after only five major league seasons.

Andrus is the Rangers' longest-tenured position player. His 757 games played are nearly two full seasons more than any other current Texas player, making him a grizzled veteran and a primary leader for this team.

"You realized sometimes how crazy baseball is and how everything can change in a couple of years," Andrus said.

The Rangers had their only off day of spring training Wednesday, with Andrus again experiencing soreness in his right arm. He dealt with flexor tendinitis in that throwing arm early in camp, which was blamed on overwork after not playing winter ball for the first time in his professional career.

Andrus has insisted that he's OK and there is nothing to worry about, but the Rangers scratched him from the lineup Tuesday. He won't throw again until he can

be evaluated by Dr. Keith Meister later this week.

Third baseman Adrian Beltre, who in his three seasons in Texas has become like an older brother to Andrus, said he has seen the shortstop grow a lot — and not just the hair on his face.

"He understands he needs to be a model for those young guys coming up, and he's maturing a lot," said Beltre, the team's oldest position player. "He's got some little things that he needs to improve in, but so far he looks like he's getting it, and looking forward for him to be the main leader in this clubhouse."

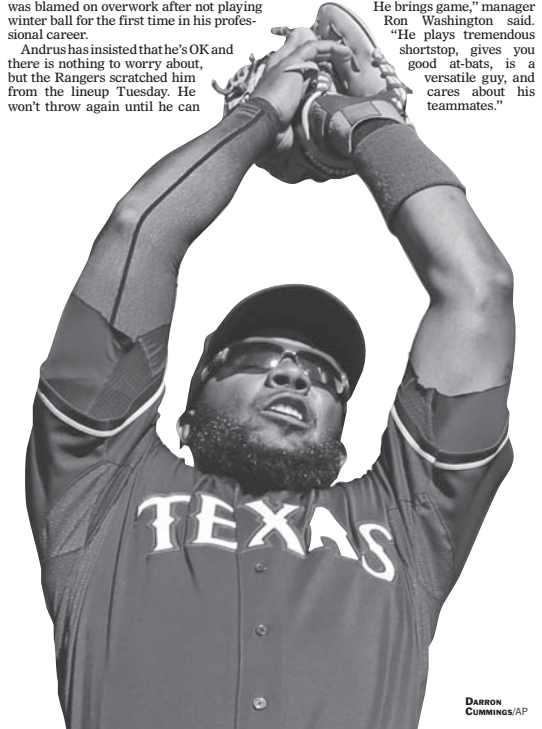
Andrus was only 20 and had never played above Double-A when before spring training five years ago the Rangers anointed him their new starting shortstop. They switched All-Star and Gold Glove shortstop Michael Young to third base to make that possible.

Now Andrus is a two-time All-Star who played in every game of both of the Rangers' World Series. He got a new contract last spring through 2022 — two years longer than any other Texas player, and with a vesting option for even another season.

"It's obvious what he brings.

He brings game," manager Ron Washington said.

"He plays tremendous shortstop, gives you good at-bats, is a versatile guy, and cares about his teammates."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

## MLB



First baseman Paul Goldschmidt typifies the Diamondbacks' toughness, according to Dodgers manager Don Mattingly.

GREGORY BULL/AP

# Early start

## Dodgers, Diamondbacks start season in Australia

By DENNIS PASSA  
The Associated Press

**S**YDNEY suspensions to eight players and a controversial NL West-clinching swimming pool incident last season helped expand a growing rivalry between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks.

But Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said he doesn't expect any serious animosity to carry over from last year when the teams meet to open the major league season Saturday and Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But he couldn't rule it out either.

The suspensions came after a brawl last June and the incident was credited with igniting the Dodgers' run that moved them to the division title. Then when the Dodgers clinched the division crown in Arizona, they upset many Diamondbacks players by celebrating in the Chase Field swimming pool.

"Kirk Gibson, Diamondbacks manager, talked about it a bit yesterday," Mattingly said. "It's a rivalry when you play somebody 19 times a year in your own division. Those games get heated."

"I don't feel like there is going to be (problems) ... maybe there is. These guys play hard and they're tough. For us, what happened last year is over and we should move forward and play."

Gibson was more or less conciliatory when asked about the brewing rivalry on Tuesday, preferring to talk about Australia as the location for his 1985 honeymoon "and that worked out pretty good, so I'm hoping this does. We're ready to go."

Mattingly said people don't think of baseball as a tough, physical sport "in terms of football, hockey or in this country, rugby."

"Baseball is more mental

toughness," he added. "Night in and night out, the travel, getting in late, all kinds of different things you deal with."

And he feels like the Dodgers match up.

"We feel like we're tough," Mattingly said. "We got down in the division 10 games at one point, surviving that and then ended up winning by 10 or 11. When you love to play, it's easier to get ready to play. I think we've got guys who love playing."

Mattingly said first baseman Paul Goldschmidt typified the toughness of the Diamondbacks.

"He's kind of gotten to be a beast, hard to deal with, tough to pitch to," Mattingly said. "He's really killed us. He's just getting to be a tough and tougher out. We treat him with a lot of respect."

On Tuesday, Goldschmidt said of the rivalry: "We play each other a lot. Guys aren't going to be worried about being laid back."

Both teams held workouts Wednesday, and some members of the Dodgers went to Bondi Beach to help out local surf lifesavers. First-game starter Clayton Kershaw, celebrating his 26th birthday Wednesday, was photographed with his wife cuddling a kangaroo and received a cake on the SCG field.

On Thursday, the Dodgers will play Team Australia in an exhibition game and the Diamondbacks provide the opposition against Australia on Friday.

"We won't use any top-line pitchers in that game," Mattingly said of the exhibition. "We'll try to make sure we won't have any one over-exposed."

In injury news, Mattingly said he didn't expect a right shoulder injury to Dodgers left fielder Carl Crawford during a minor league game Tuesday to be serious. Crawford left the game after the injury.

Mattingly said no MRI exams or other scans were scheduled, "but that could change."

Crawford is one of four Dodgers left behind at Camelback Ranch in Phoenix because his fiancée is about to give birth.

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# AUTO RACING



WADE PAYNE/AP

Crew members cover the cars during one of two weather delays lasting a total of more than five hours at the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn., on Sunday. Moving the Bristol race to later in the season could help with better weather conditions, but individual track politics and NASCAR's reluctance to change the racing schedule complicate a possible move.

## Schedule change would help weather difficulties

Of the many things NASCAR can't control, the weather is at the top of the list.

NASCAR can't make it be warm and sunny every race day and NASCAR can't stave off rain showers or cold fronts.

What NASCAR can control is the schedule. After rain delayed a second Sprint Cup race in this four-week-old season, it's time to consider some tweaks.

The Daytona 500 will always be the season-opening race and nobody is suggesting that should change. But a rain delay of nearly six hours last month pushed the bulk of the race into prime time for the second time in three years.

There's something electric about running NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl under the lights and the race pace showed the drivers felt it, too.

So just go ahead and make the Daytona 500 a night race. It may still rain on race day, but Fox won't be forced to fill hours of programming waiting for it to clear.

NASCAR then headed west to Phoenix, extended the swing a week with a stop in Las Vegas, then headed back home. Next up on the schedule was Sunday's stop at Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee, once one of the most coveted tickets in NASCAR.

The track has been one of the hardest hit since the 2008 economic downturn. A streak of 55

consecutive sellouts was snapped in 2010 and attendance for the spring race has dwindled every year. Some fans blamed a 2007 track reconfiguration for ruining the racing and there were complaints about high hotel rates.

Both reasons are valid and true. But overlooked is that Bristol's first race of the season has slowly inched up the NASCAR calendar since 2005, when it went from the sixth race of the season to fifth on the Sprint Cup Series schedule.

That was OK in 2005, when NASCAR had an early off weekend and Bristol's race date was April 3. But the next year, it was moved to March and by 2011 it was the fourth race of the season. Track officials were not surprised when the weather fluctuated wildly all last week, hitting the mid-70s before plummeting into the 40s when NASCAR rolled into town. The forecast for Sunday's race called for 100 percent chance of rain—and the two delays added up to more than five hours, with the race finishing deep into the night, under the lights.

Bristol general manager Jerry Caldwell believes he's got a valid argument for a new race date.

"I think the right place for us is mid- to late April, given the weather conditions around here," Caldwell said.

Caldwell readily admits the end result was one of the most stirring spring races the track has ever hosted, one that could make a compelling argument for Bristol to hold all its Cup events at night. But that wouldn't work with Bristol's current race date. "It's not about rain. You can have rain anywhere. It's about the

cold at night here," he said.

It was cold Sunday and only a few thousand die-hards stuck it out to the finish. They were treated to a tremendous race, but one that ended under strange circumstances when the caution lights were triggered right before Carl Edwards took the white flag.

NASCAR's official process for changing race dates is through realignment, which would mean Bristol and its Speedway Motorsports Inc. ownership group would be responsible for working out a change with another venue.

"There are so many different dominoes that have to play out," Caldwell said. "And NASCAR has at times pushed back and told us to work it out with Speedway Motorsports and see if there's someone to trade with. They are in a challenging spot trying to please everyone."

Indeed, lots of tracks want April race dates because the weather is generally nice. But Bristol doesn't have much to work with in terms of making a swap. There's only one SMI-owned track, Texas Motor Speedway, scheduled to host a race in April.

Texas faces the same weather issues as Bristol so a swap is not possible, but Caldwell would be willing to consider racing on the open Easter weekend if it got Bristol into April. He'd also be willing to consider a night race after the success this past weekend.

The problem can be fixed by NASCAR and politics shouldn't be part of the scheduling decisions.

It should be about what's best for the racing, what's best for the fans and where the weather would be least likely to ruin the show.

## Around the track

### SPRINT CUP

**This week:** Auto Club 400 at Fontana, Calif.  
**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday, CET; 4 a.m. Monday, Japan & Korea.  
**Track:** Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).  
**Race distance:** 400 miles, 200 laps.  
**Last year:** Kyle Busch completed a weekend sweep, winning after Joey Logano wrecked Denny Hamlin on the last lap. Hamlin fractured a vertebra and missed almost five full races.  
**Last week:** Carl Edwards won the rain-shortened race at Bristol.  
**Fast facts:** Six-time series champion Jimmie Johnson has a series-high five victories at the track. He was 12th last year.  
**Next race:** STP 500, March 30, Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.  
**Online:** nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### Driver standings

1. Brad Keselowski.....	163
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	153
3. Carl Edwards.....	152
4. Jeff Gordon.....	152
5. Jimmie Johnson.....	143
6. Joey Logano.....	141
7. Denny Hamlin.....	140
8. Matt Kenseth.....	138
9. Ryan Newman.....	125
10. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.....	122
11. Casey Mears.....	120
12. Greg Biffle.....	118
13. Austin Dillon.....	117
14. Kyle Busch.....	111
15. Marcos Ambrose.....	108
16. Jamie McMurray.....	100
17. Paul Menard.....	99
18. Brian Vickers.....	99
19. Casey Mears.....	97
20. Aric Almirola.....	95

### Driver to watch

Tony Stewart has struggled in his return from a leg injury, but things might be turning around for "Smoke." After disappointing starts at Daytona and Phoenix, Stewart turned in a fourth-place finish in last week's rain-plagued race at Bristol. "It's a step in the right direction for sure. This is a big one. If you come out of this place with a top-five you've had a good day," he told The Associated Press. Stewart stands a good chance of keeping his momentum: He has won two of the past four races at Fontana.



### NATIONWIDE SERIES

**This week:** Auto Club 300 at Fontana, Calif.  
**TV:** (Delayed) AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m. Sunday, CET; 4 p.m. Sunday, JKT.  
**Track:** Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).  
**Race distance:** 300 miles, 150 laps.

**Last year:** Kyle Busch gave Joe Gibbs Racing its ninth consecutive Nationwide victory at the track, comfortably beating Sam Hornish Jr.

**Last week:** Busch raced to his 16th career Bristol victory, the most by a NASCAR driver at any track. He held off Kyle Larson after a late restart.

**Fast facts:** Busch has a record 65 series victories. He also won the rain-shortened Phoenix race this year.

— Tony Stewart started Joe Gibbs Racing's Fontana winning streak in February 2008, and Busch has six victories and Joey Logano two for the team. Busch, Matt Kenseth and Elliott Sadler are driving for JGR this week.

**Next race:** O'Reilly Auto Parts 300, April 4, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.

Online: nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

**Next race:** Kroger 250, March 29, Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

**Last race:** Kyle Busch won on Daytona on Feb. 21 to become the first driver to win Truck, ARCA, Nationwide and Sprint Cup races at the track.

Online: nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### VERIZON INDYCAR

**Next race:** Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, March 30, Streets of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Online: indycar.com

— The Associated Press

### FORMULA ONE

**Next race:** Malaysian Grand Prix, March 30, Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur.

**Last week:** Mercedes' Nico Rosberg won the season-opening Australia Grand Prix. Second-place finisher Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was disqualified for a breach of fuel regulations.

Online: formula1.com

— The Associated Press

### NHRA MELLO YELLOW DRAG RACING

**Next event:** SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals, March 28-30, The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

**Last week:** Robert Hight won the Gatornationals, beating Bob John Force in the Funny Car final. Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel, Allen Johnson in Pro Stock, and Steve Johnson in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

— The Associated Press

### OTHER RACES

**ARCA RACING SERIES:** ARCA-Mobile 200, Saturday, Mobile International Speedway, Irvington, Ala.

**WORLD OF OUTLAWS:** Sprint Car: FVP Western Spring Shootout, Saturday, Stockton Dirt Track, Stockton, Calif.

— The Associated Press



## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Scoreboard

## First round

**At Dayton, Ohio**  
**Tuesday, March 18**  
 Albany (N.Y.) 71, Mount St. Mary's 64  
 N.C. State 74, Xavier 59  
**Wednesday, March 19**  
 Cal Poly 81, Texas Southern 69  
 Tennessee 76, Iowa 65

## East Regional

**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 20**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 UConn (26-8) vs. Saint Joseph's (24-9)  
 Villanova (28-4) vs. Milwaukee (21-13)  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
 Cincinnati (27-6) vs. Harvard (26-4)  
 Michigan State (26-8) vs. Delaware (25-9)  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
 Memphis (23-9) vs. George Washington (24-9)  
 Virginia (28-6) vs. Coastal Carolina (21-12)

**At San Antonio**  
 North Carolina (23-9) vs. Providence (23-11)  
 Iowa State (26-7) vs. North Carolina Central (28-9)

**Third Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 Villanova/Wisconsin\* vs. UConn-Saint Joseph's winner  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
 Michigan State-Delaware winner vs. Cincinnati-Harvard winner

**Sunday, March 23**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
 Virginia-Coastal Carolina winner vs. Memphis-George Washington winner  
**At San Antonio**  
 Iowa State-North Carolina Central winner vs. North Carolina-Providence winner

## South Regional

**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 20**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 Dayton, 60 Ohio State 53  
 Syracuse (27-5) vs. W. Michigan (23-9)  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
 Colorado (23-11) vs. Pittsburgh (25-9)  
 Florida (32-2) vs. Albany (N.Y.) (19-14)  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At St. Louis**  
 New Mexico (27-6) vs. Stanford (21-12)  
 Kansas (24-9) vs. Eastern Kentucky (24-9)

**At San Diego**  
 VCU (26-8) vs. Stephen F. Austin (31-2)  
 UCLA (26-8) vs. Tulsa (22-12)  
**Third Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 Syracuse/Western Michigan vs. Dayton  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
 Florida-Albany (NY) winner vs. Colorado-Pittsburgh

**Sunday, March 23**  
 Kansas-Eastern Kentucky winner vs. New Mexico-Stanford winner  
**At San Diego**  
 UCLA-Tulsa vs. VCU-Stephen F. Austin

## Midwest Regional

**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 20**  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
 Saint Louis (26-6) vs. N.C. State (22-13)  
 Louisville (29-5) vs. Manhattan (25-7)  
**At Milwaukee**  
 Michigan (24-9) vs. Norfolk (20-12)  
 Texas (23-10) vs. Arizona State (21-11)  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
 Duke (26-8) vs. Mercer (26-4)  
 Villanova (28-4) vs. Tennessee (22-12)  
**At St. Louis**  
 Wichita State (34-0) vs. Cal Poly (14-19)  
 Kentucky (24-10) vs. Kansas State (20-12)

**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
 Louisville-Manhattan winner vs. Saint Louis-N.C. State winner  
**At Milwaukee**  
 Michigan/Norfolk vs. Texas-Arizona St.  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
 Duke/Mercer vs. Villanova-Tennessee  
**At St. Louis**  
 Wichita State-Cal Poly winner vs. Kentucky-Kansas State winner

## West Regional

**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 20**  
**At Milwaukee**  
 Wisconsin 75, American 35  
 Oregon (22-9) vs. BYU (23-11)  
**At Spokane Arena**  
**Spokane, Wash.**  
 Oklahoma (25-9) vs. North Dakota State (25-6)  
 Oregon State (29-4) vs. New Mexico State (26-9)  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At San Antonio**  
 Baylor (24-11) vs. Nebraska (19-12)  
 Creighton (26-7) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (23-11)

**At San Diego**  
 Arizona (30-4) vs. Weber State (19-11)  
 Gonzaga (26-8) vs. Oklahoma State (21-12)  
**Third Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Milwaukee**  
 Wisconsin vs. Oregon/BU  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
 San Diego State-New Mexico State winner vs. Oklahoma-North Dakota State winner  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**At San Antonio**  
 Creighton-Louisiana-Lafayette winner vs. Baylor-Nebraska winner  
**At San Diego**  
 Arizona-Weber State winner vs. Gonzaga-Oklahoma State winner

## Tennessee, Cal Poly move on

## Teams wrap up First Four, earn berths in field of 64

By JOE KAY

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Tennessee gave the NCAA tournament its first improbable comeback. Cal Poly won, too — which was improbable in itself.

The First Four turned into quite a starting point.

With forward Jarnell Stokes using his 280 pounds to dominate inside and a highly regarded defense finally locking in, Tennessee wrapped up the First Four with a 78-65 victory over Iowa on Wednesday night.

Stokes opened overtime with a three-point play that put Tennessee ahead to stay, and the Volunteers' defense held Iowa to one free throw in overtime.

"I told our guys we've been through everything this season, keep your composure down the stretch," said coach Cuonzo Martin, who got his first NCAA tournament win in his third season at Tennessee. "Find ways to win the ball game."

The Vols (22-12) head to Raleigh, N.C., where they'll play sixth-seeded Massachusetts on Friday in the Midwest Regional. They left Dayton with a lot of momentum — six wins in their last seven games.

"We did a tremendous job toward the end of fighting back," said Jordan McRae, who had 20 points. "We did a great job on our defense. For us to hold them like we did was a great job."

Tennessee didn't lead until Antonio Barton's three-pointer put the Vols up 59-57 with 3:05 left in regulation. There were five lead changes before McRae missed a jumper at the buzzer, leaving it tied at 64.

Stokes' three-point play in overtime was the key moment in his 18-point, 13-rebound performance, putting the Volunteers ahead to stay. It was his 20th double-double this season, the most by a Volunteer since Bernard King had 22 of them in 1976-77.

Tennessee's highly regarded defense took it from there. The Hawkeyes (21-13) missed all eight of their shots from the field in overtime.

It was a tough ending to a long and stressful day for Iowa coach Fran McCaffery. He started the day in Iowa with his teenage son, Patrick, who had surgery to remove a thyroid tumor. His assistant coaches led the Hawkeyes through a meeting and their final practice, and McCaffery was back by game time.



SKIP PETERSON/AP

Tennessee guard Jordan McRae, left, drives to the basket against Iowa forward Zach McCabe during overtime of Wednesday's First Four game of the NCAA tournament in Dayton, Ohio.

## On TV

**No. 3 Duke vs. No. 14 Mercer**  
 5 p.m. Friday CET  
 1 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Sports

**No. 6 Baylor vs. No. 11 Nebraska**  
 5:30 p.m. Friday CET  
 1:30 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Xtra

**No. 1 Arizona vs. No. 16 Weber State**  
 7 p.m. Friday CET  
 3 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Pacific

**No. 6 Massachusetts vs. No. 11 Tennessee**  
 7:30 p.m. Friday CET  
 3:30 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Sports

**No. 3 Creighton vs. No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette**  
 8 p.m. Friday CET  
 4 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Xtra

**No. 8 Gonzaga vs. No. 9 Oklahoma State**  
 9:30 p.m. Friday CET  
 5:30 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Pacific

**No. 6 North Carolina vs. No. 11 Providence**  
 Midnight Friday CET  
 8 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Pacific

**No. 1 Wichita State vs. No. 16 Cal-Poly**  
 Midnight Friday CET  
 8 a.m. Saturday JKT  
 AFN-Sports

The night started with Cal Poly becoming the first 19-loss team in 59 years to win an NCAA tournament game, stunning Texas Southern 81-69.

Chris Eversley scored 19 points and David Nwaba had 17 to help Cal Poly (14-19) become the first team since Bradley in 1955 to win with so many losses on the season.

Now the team with the worst record in the tournament moves on to face the one with the best — top-seeded Wichita State (34-0) — in the second round in St. Louis on Friday.

It's exactly what Mustangs coach Joe Callero had hoped.

"I'm so weird that I was cheering the last five years that a 16 (seed) never updates a 1," he said. "Because if we ever got a bid, we'd be a 16 seed and then we'd have a chance to make real history."

The Mustangs were 4-9 early this season. They didn't exactly inspire confidence heading into the Big West Conference tournament, having lost nine of 11, but

they still won the title to earn the program's first NCAA bid.

Held back by injuries all year, a team that shot 41 percent from the field for the season saved its best for last by hitting 57 percent on the biggest stage.

Eversley laughed when asked if Wichita State should be worried.

"We're going to get on a plane tonight, get to St. Louis, Missouri, and just go start on a scouting report and make sure we're ready for Wichita State — and go out there keep playing the way we've been playing," he said.

Aaric Murray closed out his career with 38 points for Texas Southern (19-15).

"They took advantage of our mistakes defensively," said Texas Southern coach Mike Davis, who had also led Indiana and UAB into the tournament. "They shared the ball well. They had one turnover in the first half. It's hard to beat a basketball team that has one turnover."

AP Sports Writer Rusty Miller in Dayton contributed to this story.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## UConn back after academic sanctions

By PAT EATON-ROBB  
The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Connecticut guard Ryan Boatright didn't watch the NCAA tournament last year. It was too painful.

The Huskies were banned from that postseason because players that preceded them at the school had failed to meet NCAA academic standards.

"I barely watched TV, because it was everywhere," Boatright said. "It was hurting me every time I turned the TV on."

Now the Huskies are back in the tournament as a No. 7 seed, and faced Atlantic 10 champion St. Joseph's on Thursday night in Buffalo, N.Y.

UConn players credit the adversity with giving them the tools to return to the tournament.

The low scores were first reported by The Associated Press early in the 2011-12 season, just months after Kemba Walker led the Huskies on an improbable run to the program's third national title.

That was the beginning of what coach Kevin Ollie referred to this week as "dark times."

Despite having a talented team, UConn struggled with consistency and leadership, and Hall-of-Fame coach Jim Calhoun missed numerous games with health issues. UConn lost to Iowa State in the first round of the 2012 tournament.

Within weeks, the sanctions became official, star center Andre Drummond and guard Jeremy Lamb left for the NBA and several other players transferred. Just before the 2012-13 season, Calhoun retired and handed the reins to Ollie, who had never held a head coaching job on any level.

"I thought myself, what was I going to do after that (loss to Iowa State)," guard Shabazz Napier said. "It still didn't hit me that we wasn't going to be in the postseason. It still didn't hit me. But it was kind of mind-boggling. What should I do now?"

"Then I was hearing everyone was deciding to leave and I didn't know what to do. But I definitely

thought to myself, there is always another chance to get out there. And I stayed and I gave myself the opportunity to do something."

Last year, despite the transfers and the ban that kept them out of both the Big East and NCAA tournaments, the Huskies went 20-10.

This season, they are 26-8, and one of just two teams to beat No. 1 Florida. Napier, who is leading the Huskies in scoring (17.4 points per game), rebounding (5.9), assists (4.9) and steals (5.8 this season) was voted the player of the year in UConn's new home, the American Athletic Conference.

The Huskies also have done their work in the classroom. Ollie announced in October that the team would report a perfect academic progress report score to the NCAA for the 2012-13 school year. That will become official in May.

"We're back where we belong," he said Sunday night.

St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli said he doesn't think the Huskies are hungrier than anyone else in the tournament, but believes they are prepared.

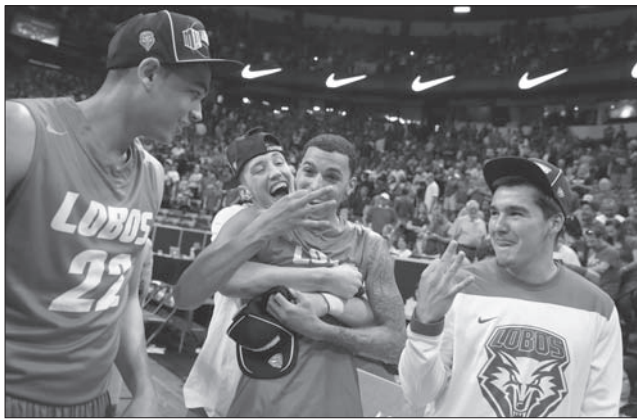
"I think when you have a staff like Kevin has acquired and you have a team that practices in an arena where they hang national championship banners, hunger and motivated and the next part of the question is nervous — I don't anticipate that at all," he said of the Huskies.

Forward DeAndre Daniels said everyone on this team chose to stay through the tough times or joined the team during them.

"Transferring never crossed my mind," he said. "I'll always be loyal to UConn, it's just who I chose, it's the school I love. It's just exciting now, because we've been planting our seeds since we couldn't make the tournament last year, and now it's finally here and now it's just time to get to work." The journey back isn't over, Napier said.

"It's definitely a special feeling to get another chance," he said.

"But you've got to take the opportunity at hand and take advantage of it. Hopefully, we do that."



New Mexico's Kendall Williams, center front, celebrates with teammates after beating No. 13 San Diego State for the Mountain West Conference tournament championship on Saturday in Las Vegas. The win earned the 17th-ranked Lobos an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

## New Mexico to try a new approach for tournament

By GLEN ROSALES  
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — It's a memory that everybody connected to the New Mexico basketball program is hard-pressed to forget.

A year ago, the Lobos were media darlings. They were seeded third and were a popular pick to reach the Final Four.

This from a program that had never won more than one game in any NCAA tournament.

Rather than reaching the last weekend of the season, New Mexico fell to unheralded and fourteenth-seeded Harvard in the opening game.

"We all know what that feeling was like in the locker room last year," Lobos first-year coach Craig Neal said. "And my biggest goal was to try and get them back and we got them back. So hopefully they'll take it from there."

The seeded-seventh Lobos (27-6) meet No. 10 Stanford (21-12) on Friday in St. Louis.

But Neal, who took over the program when Steve Alford left for UCLA shortly after that Harvard defeat, is doing things his own way this time around.

It started with the selection show. The previous two seasons, after New Mexico won the Mountain West tournament, it hosted a selection show love fest in The Pit in front of thousands of fans.

Not this season.

"We got some rest and now we're going to have a week to pre-

pare for a team that we feel we can go out and hopefully slow up a powerful offense that is dynamic, has a lot of talent on that end," said senior guard Kendall Williams. "We're feeling like we're in a good place right now."

The Pit production just got to be too exhausting, Neal said.

"I just wanted my guys to get away from it," he said. "That's a long day when you win the Mountain West tournament and you fly back at 7 (a.m.) and then you have to do the selection show and that's a long production. And then by time each one of (the media) talks to each guy, it ends up being a four-hour deal."

The idea, Neal said, was not so much to celebrate what's been accomplished but to focus on what still needs to be done.

"Our whole thing is where we're going," he said. "We're pretty focused and we have a purpose. I changed up a little of what we do, trying to make them a little bit more relaxed."

The attention last season may have been a bit much for a program not used to such things, said senior power forward Cameron Bastrow.

"I think we had some of it last year when we did get a lot of recognition, and I think in some aspects, we did let it get into our heads a bit," he said. "I think it's

something you have to take it as it is. We haven't been getting a lot of recognition for most of my time here so when you do get it, you just have to adjust and listen to people inside your inner circle and play your own game."

The Lobos entered this season using the concept of unfinished business as a mantra.

"We're going in there with the mindset that we're going to be in there as long as possible," Williams said. "Compete as hard as we can, because last year I don't think that's really where our focus was. So if there's anything we can take out of unfinished business, it's the aggressive mindset that this is our last chance."

Neal said he is grateful his squad had an extra day of rest after playing three grueling games three days at the conference tournament in Las Vegas.

As for preparation, the coach said he's going to work on a few more Xs and Os as he gets the team prepared to face the Cardinal.

"I'm going to do a little bit more playing, a little bit more scrimmaging," he said. "A little bit more situational, game-like situations that we've done in the past, but we just didn't do it a lot last year because we were kind of run down at the end of the year. I think our guys are fresher. I think physically they're in a lot better shape than they were a year ago."



BRAD HERRIGAN, HARTFORD COURANT/CT

Connecticut's Ryan Boatright (11), right, didn't watch last year's NCAA tournament while the Huskies' program was serving a penalty for not meeting NCAA academic standards.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Contempt of familiarity

## Have social media and AAU play stripped some of the intrigue from March Madness?

By DAVE SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State freshmen Marcus Foster and Wesley Iwundu have never played Kentucky. They hadn't even seen the scouting film on the SEC powerhouse that was being put together by their coaches.

Yet they were already intimately familiar with them.

You see, Iwundu played on the same Houston-area AAU team as Kentucky freshmen Andrew and Aaron Harrison, which was coached by the twins' father. Foster played against them on a rival AAU program out of Dallas. And as Iwundu and Foster were trying to usher their Wildcats to the NCAA tournament this season, they caught plenty of games involving those other Wildcats on television.

"The first thing I thought about was the twins," Iwundu said when he saw that No. 9 seed Kansas

State would be playing No. 8 seed Kentucky on Friday in St. Louis.

"I knew from the jump, playing against them last summer, that they are going to be pros," Foster added. "The Harrison twins are very talented scorers. Andrew takes care of the ball well. Aaron can score. And Julius Randle is a monster down there in the paint."

So much for the Kansas State coaches putting together that scouting tape. They might as well ask Foster for a run-down.

Which raises a question: Has some of the mystery that made the NCAA tournament so intriguing over the years been slowly stripped away? After all, there is an ever-expanding summer circuit for traveling teams and so many games now can be found on television or online, along with expert (and not-so-expert) analysis via social media outlets.

"I don't know if I buy into that," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I always thought the mystery of the

NCAA is the potential upsets, and that kind of stuff, where you're dealing with Cinderellas, and that one player that comes out of nowhere to put his team on their back. There are so many unique stories that come along with this thing."

They may be unique. They just might not necessarily be novel.

Think back to 1991. When Richmond became the first No. 15 seed to upset a No. 2 seed in Syracuse, how many casual fans knew anything about the Spiders?

Fast forward two decades, when Richmond was back in the NCAA tournament as a No. 12 seed. Several of their players had grown up on the AAU circuit, competing against friends who wound up at marquee programs. The Spiders had become regulars on TV. And they were suddenly a trendy pick to spring a couple of upsets, which they did in advancing to the Sweet 16.

"Every team is well-prepared and well-scouted, so players go in, and they're not caught off guard by what people can do," Baylor coach Scott Drew explained. "Back in the day, when you were relying on VHS tape, and sometimes you didn't get all the tape in. I think definitely you could surprise some people at that time."

One of the big reasons for that was television. Even if fans hadn't seen their games, they at least had the opportunity, whether it was on networks or live streams offered by their schools.



PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP, ABOVE, AND ORLIN WAGNER, BELOW/AP

Above, Kentucky's Aaron Harrison, right, prepares to take a shot next to his twin brother Andrew Harrison. Kansas State freshmen Marcus Foster, below left, and Wesley Iwundu, below right, were intimately familiar with Kentucky's talented twins before watching any tape of their upcoming NCAA tournament foes. Iwundu played with the Harrison brothers on the same Houston-area AAU team, while Foster played against them on a rival AAU program in Dallas.



This season, for example, ESPN covered 957 games across its many platforms. Throw in the games on CBS, Fox Sports and the multitude of other channels, and the number of college basketball games available to fans stretched into the thousands.

Never heard of No. 16 seed Albany? You must have missed the seven appearances the Great Danes made on ESPN3 this season. Mount St. Mary's? The Mountaineers were on television nine times during the regular season.

"In terms of knowing each other, I think that we would all be surprised how much kids know each other," Texas coach Rick Barnes said, "and probably how much some of them, maybe are in contact with each other more than you think through the social media now."

Then again, none of this necessarily makes the NCAA tournament any less interesting.

In fact, all those connections between players and coaches, all those games beamed into living rooms and all those stories that have already been told may make it more fascinating than ever.

"I think," Self said, "the intrigue and mystery is still there."



## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Creighton finds success with dynamic duo

Bluejays star McDermott, wingman Gibbs look to solidify legacy with deep tournament run

By ERIC OLSON  
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Grant Gibbs gives the basketball to Doug McDermott. McDermott gives Gibbs his scholarship.

It's been a win-win for everyone at Creighton.

With Gibbs as his wingman for three years, McDermott has ascended to near the top of the NCAA's career scoring chart. The two share an uncommon connection on the court. Off the court, they're best buddies.

"If I'm Doug," coach Greg McDermott said, "I'm a pretty good friend of his, too, if he passes me the ball like Grant does."

Doug McDermott, the coach's son, and Gibbs begin their last go-round together Friday when the third-seeded Bluejays (26-7) meet No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette (23-11) in the NCAA tournament in San Antonio.

"We can kind of solidify what we have kind of built here with a deep tournament run," Gibbs said. "We're going to approach it the same way we have our whole time here in terms of playing loose and playing together, all the things that have helped us win a lot of games."

McDermott, the nation's top scorer at 26.9 points a game, and Gibbs are part of a senior class that has won a Creighton four-year record 106 games. The Bluejays enter the tournament shooting a nation-leading 42 percent on three-pointers and averaging 79.5 points.

Doug McDermott said he wouldn't have scored his 3,105 career points, fifth-most all-time, without a lot of help from Gibbs.



NATHAN HARRIS/AP

Creighton's Doug McDermott, left, and Grant Gibbs have helped propel the Bluejays offense. With Gibbs as his wingman for three years, McDermott has ascended to near the top of the NCAA's all-time scoring chart. The two share an uncommon connection on the court, and off the court, they're best buddies.

"You guys see it firsthand," he said. "He's just a great teammate in general. He's always finding

me in the right spots. It's really been a cool duo, me and Grant."

A year ago, no one would have

predicted they would have this season together.

McDermott planned to declare for the NBA draft before Creighton left the mid-major Missouri Valley Conference and accepted an invitation to the Big East. He came back because he wanted to test himself in a power conference.

Gibbs' return was equally improbable. He started his career at Gonzaga in 2008, and his two years there were marred by shoulder and knee injuries. To Creighton's surprise, the NCAA granted Gibbs' petition for a medical hardship and a six-year year of eligibility.

Greg McDermott was in a pickle because all 13 scholarships already were allotted for 2013-14 when he found out his son and Gibbs would be back. So he shifted Doug's scholarship to Gibbs and made Doug a walk-on — a move that has cost Greg McDermott about \$44,000.

"I'm getting tired of those tuition bills," the coach said with a laugh. "But Doug will have a job (soon). I'll send him a bill. Everything will be good."

Gibbs' return has been worth every penny, as far as the coach is concerned. The 6-foot-5 Gibbs averages 7.2 points a game and is shooting a career-best 47.5 percent on three-pointers.

It's not the scoring that makes Gibbs valuable. Besides the leadership he provides, Gibbs has averaged 4.9 assists in his 98 games at Creighton. Of his 489 career assists, 231 (47 percent) have come on baskets by McDermott.

"You don't find college basketball players in this day and age that don't care if they get to shoot.

Grant's one of those guys," Greg McDermott said. "He would just as well throw a great pass as make a shot."

With his injury history, Gibbs was understandably scared in early January when he dislocated his right kneecap. Gibbs missed six games, and it was as if he hadn't left when he returned Feb. 7 against DePaul. He had a season-high eight assists, six of them setting up McDermott baskets.

Gibbs regularly finds McDermott as he's cutting through the lane or coming off a screen, or when he's looking to shoot a three as a trailer.

"Grant has the ability to throw the ball to where Doug is going to be, not where he is at that moment," Greg McDermott said. "Some guys see Doug come open and throw it right to him. Grant will throw it a couple steps ahead of him and let Doug run it down, and now it becomes an easier shot."

The Bluejays have lost in the NCAA round of 32 the last two years and have said that anything less than the Sweet 16 would be unacceptable. If they're going to get there, or further, Gibbs is going to have to keep delivering those pinpoint passes to his old friend.

After the tournament, McDermott will become his school's highest NBA draft pick since Benoit Benjamin went No. 3 overall in 1985. Gibbs plans to go into coaching.

"It's definitely pretty sad that these are our last few times together," McDermott said. "It's also exciting to know what we've done here and what we have a chance to do in the tournament."

## Heartland: 'Flyover states' taking center stage for March Madness

## FROM BACK PAGE

But in many ways, the success of schools such as Tulsa and Saint Louis makes little sense.

They don't have the strong tradition of Kansas. They don't have fertile recruiting grounds such as Chicago or the Dallas Metroplex in their backyards. All they have are coaches willing to grind, fans every bit as zealous as those of Duke and Kentucky, and players often overlooked by those college basketball blue-bloods who arrive on campus with a chip on their shoulders. The result? Turn on the tournament this week and you'll see Oklahoma against North Dakota State in a second-round game. Wichita State and Kansas State could meet in the third round, as could Nebraska and Creighton, a tantalizing matchup that just might generate as much interest in the state as Cornhusker football does on an autumn Saturday.

"If we're going to go and play and Nebraska is going to the NCAA tournament, why not go to the same place," asked Bluejays coach Greg McDermott. "I think it's going to be a great deal of fun."

McDermott's son, Doug, is the odds-on favorite for national player of the year. Those teams from the heartland? They're

not short on talent, even if they often have to get creative — and go to great lengths — to land some of it.

Kansas star Andrew Wiggins is a freshman of the year candidate and potential No. 1 draft pick. So is the Jayhawks' Joel Embiid, who will miss the first half of the tournament with a back injury.

Oklahoma State features a dynamic guard in Marcus Smart. Iowa State has Canadian forward Melvin Ejim, the Big 12 player of the year. Oklahoma's Cameron Clark is a game-changer. Kansas State has a talented freshman in its own right, Marcus Foster.

It's enough to make more traditional basketball states such as Indiana and Illinois — both of which were shut out of the NCAA tournament — feel just a wee bit jealous.

"There's great basketball in this area," Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford said. "You look at the Big 12 and what we've done this year being the No. 1 basketball conference in America, by far. I think it says a lot about the basketball in the Midwest right now."

Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg, who grew up in Iowa and starred for the Cyclones, couldn't help but gush about the quality of the teams in the region — even those that didn't make the dance.



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

Wisconsin's Nigel Hayes lays on the bench before Thursday's game against American.

"I've been very impressed with what Tim Miles has done at Nebraska, and the ending they had, going on the road and winning at Michigan State, having a big run. North Dakota State, I'm a big fan of that team and that coach, so yeah, Midwest has got pretty good teams," he said.

Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger grew up in Silver Lake, Kan., played at Kansas State and later coached there. But he's also coached at Florida and UNLV, and with the

Knicks and the Hawks in the NBA. And the college hoops he's played in the Midwest this season? As good as he's ever seen.

"Obviously, you're selected to play in this tournament, you're selecting the best 68 teams in the country," Kruger said Monday, "and a lot come from the Midwest and the heartland, and basketball here in these leagues is outstanding."

Now, it's up to them to prove just how good against the rest of America.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT



SHELBY TAUBER, THE DAILY TEXAN/AP

Iowa State's DeAndre Kane is one of the best rebounding guards in the country and could help the No. 3-seeded Cyclones go far.

## Iowa State primed for extended run

BY LUKE MEREDITH  
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The next step for coach Fred Hoiberg and his surging Cyclones would be a long run in the NCAA tournament.

Third-seeded Iowa State has the pieces to make a push for the Final Four — and the Cyclones are playing their best basketball at exactly the right time.

Iowa State (26-7) beat Kansas State, Kansas and Baylor over three days to win the Big 12 tournament for the first time since 2000. By far the most talented team Hoiberg has had in four seasons at Iowa State opens tournament play in the East Region on Friday night against North Carolina Central (28-5).

We "played three excellent teams, and all three played different styles. Everything we've done to this point is [about] playing your best basketball at this time of year," Hoiberg said. "Hopefully we'll build off of what we did in the tournament last week."

The Cyclones have become a trendy pick in the brackets partly because they're such a difficult team to plan against.

Point guard DeAndre Kane, the MVP of the Big 12 tournament, is averaging 17 points and a Big 12-leading 5.8 assists per game. But he's also one of the best rebounding guards in the country at 6.7 a game, and his ability to post up defenders gives the Cyclones an extra weapon. Georges Niang's ability to knock down threes and drive to the rim for baskets off on spin moves is unusual for a 6-foot-7 college forward.

While Melvin Ejim might be more of a traditional small forward, he was named the Big 12's Player of the Year this season and has 32 career double-doubles. The Cyclones have a stand-out rebounder and energy guy to

pair with Ejim in forward Dustin Hogue, who helps them compensate for their lack of a true center.

They also start a freshman guard on pace to break the NCAA record for assist-to-turnover ratio in Monte Morris and have a backup guard, Naz Long, who twice hit long threes at the buzzer to help Iowa State avoid losses to Oklahoma State.

The Cyclones also played one of the most difficult and varied schedules in the country, so they're unlikely to be surprised by a defense. In addition to a round-robin schedule in the Big 12, which saw seven of its 10 teams reach the NCAA tournament, Iowa State beat Michigan, BYU and Iowa in non-conference play.

The Cyclones aren't afraid to play from behind, either. They've erased double-digit deficits to win eight times and are 7-4 when trailing at halftime.

"We've had our backs against the wall against some teams. You think you don't have a chance. But then you find a way to pull it out. And again, that all leads to confidence, which is so important ... and we're a confident team right now," Hoiberg said.

Iowa State isn't perfect, of course.

The Cyclones have been known to suffer through stretches of cold shooting and inattentive defense, and they've been susceptible at times to opposing big men in the post. But for the most part, Iowa State looks like a team primed for a strong performance in the NCAA tournament.

"Our chemistry has been very good, and we've handled adversity well so far with this group. I'm sure that at some point in every game we play the rest of the season, we'll be challenged," Hoiberg said. "So far this team has shown that it handles it very well."

# A calming influence

## Kruger quietly guides Oklahoma back to prominence

BY CLIFF BRUNT  
The Associated Press

**T**he emcee at Oklahoma's year-end banquet, Toby Anderson, paused to recall a recent conversation with coach Lon Kruger.

The "Voice of the Sooners" asked Kruger when he'd last been assessed a technical foul. Kruger paused, then said it was back when he coached the NBA's Atlanta Hawks more than 10 years ago.

While demonstrative coaches fill the highlights and grab headlines, the 61-year-old Kruger remains in control. The only coach to take five different schools to the NCAA tournament has done it the same way each time — by using his calm demeanor, deep basketball knowledge and knack for cultivating relationships to get the most out of his teams.

"He never yells," sophomore forward Ryan Spangler said. "He just knows how to coach people."

Kruger took Kansas State to the regional finals in 1988, Florida to the Final Four in 1994 and UNLV to the regional semi in 2007. Oklahoma went 15-16 his first year in 2011-12, then reached the NCAA tournament last season. This season, the Sooners cracked Top 25 for the first time since 2009 and have returned to the NCAA tournament.

Oklahoma (23-9), the No. 5 seed in the West Region, opens tournament play Thursday against No. 12 seed North Dakota State (25-6) in Spokane, Wash.

Getting the team to this point might be one of Kruger's better coaching jobs. Oklahoma was picked to finish in the middle of the pack in the Big 12 after losing its top three scorers from last season.

Mainstays blossomed and newcomers fit in. Guard Buddy Hield more than doubled his scoring average as a sophomore and led the

team with 16.8 points per game. Clark, the only senior starter, averaged 15.3 points. Spangler, a transfer from Gonzaga, averaged 9.8 points and 9.4 rebounds while shooting 59 percent from the field. Isaiah Cousins, a sophomore, averages 10.8 points and spearheads the team's perimeter defense. Freshman point guard Jordan Woodard averages 10.3 points and 4.7 assists.

Even with the youth and new faces, the Sooners finished second in the conference with no first-team All-Big 12 players. For that, Kruger was named the league's Coach of the Year.

"I just think he got everybody to buy in, just buying in with hard work, just going hard and doing everything on the defensive end," Clark said.

Kruger said this team's success is special because the squad needed unity to reach its potential, especially given the talent level of the rest of the conference. Seven of the 10 Big 12 teams earned NCAA tournament bids.

"I think it was obvious from the start that this group was going to invest and put the time in," he said. "That's a great starting point. They really like each other. They like making plays for each other. Combine that with the investment of time, and you've got a chance to make good things happen."

Though Kruger is accomplished, the players say the interactions with him trump everything. His basketball knowledge allows him to speak quietly, yet still get his point across.

"The first time I'd seen him

in practice drawing on a board — it's crazy how smart he is," Spangler said. "That made me respect him right then."

That respect allows Kruger to speak softly.

"He's the type of guy you want to listen to," Spangler said. "You don't want to upset him or make him mad at you, so all of our team, we just listen to whatever he says. Obviously, he's right most of the time."

Kruger transfers the knowledge to results by helping the players bond.

"He gets us as a team to play together," Hield said. "I think him doing that, bringing us together, even eating together, stuff like that — little things like that help us win."

Even with a low volume, Kruger pushes his team. Oklahoma started the season winning by posting high point totals, but Kruger knew that to compete in the Big 12, the Sooners would have to play better defense. In practice and in news conferences, the message was the same. Finally, the Sooners got it, and the wins followed. Oklahoma finished with a 12-6 record in conference play.

"He's been harping on us all season about defense, and we finally listened to him the last month of the season because he knows what he's talking about, and we really bought into what he's talking about," Spangler said.

Both at the banquet and at his media session after the NCAA tournament selections were announced, Kruger deflected credit.

"It's been a fun group," he said. "It's been fun to watch them make the progress. It's been fun to watch them, as much as anything, buy into trusting each other to take care of respective responsibilities."



Head coach Lon Kruger led a young Oklahoma team to second place in the Big 12 with no first-team All conference players on the roster.

YOUNG KWAK/AP

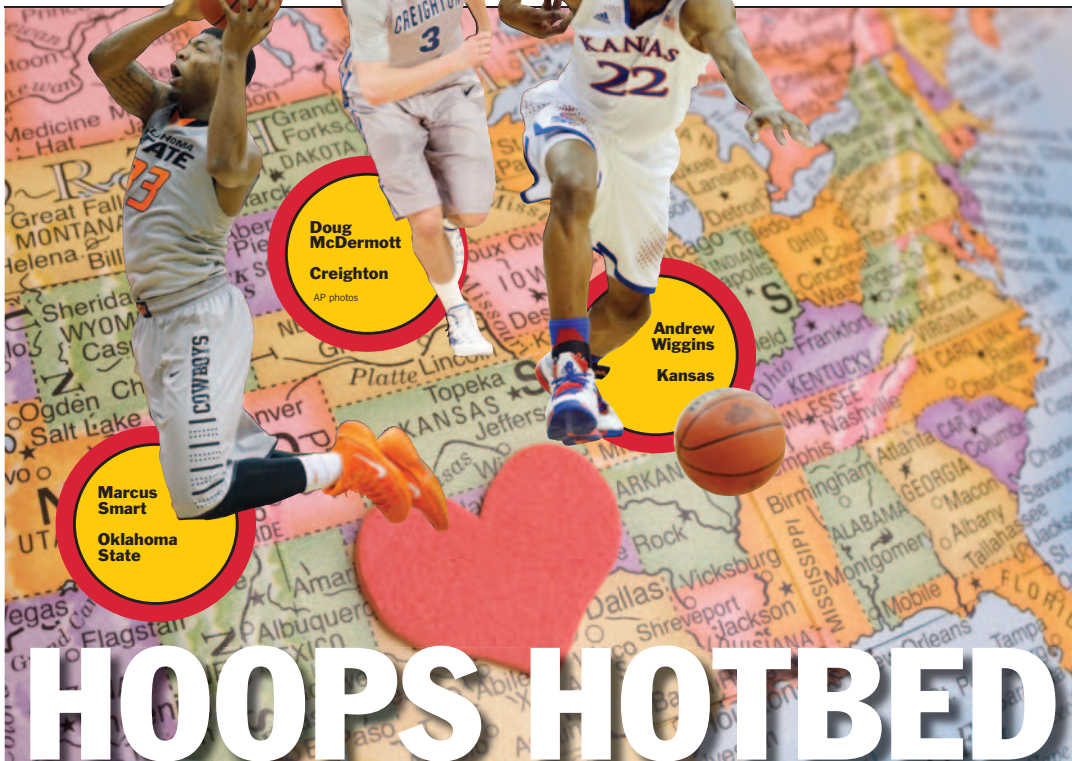
‘He never yells. He just knows how to coach people.’

Ryan Spangler  
Oklahoma sophomore forward

## SPORTS

Patriots, Broncos escalate  
free agency arms race

NFL, Page 56

Doug  
McDermott  
Creighton

AP photos

Andrew  
Wiggins  
KansasMarcus  
Smart  
Oklahoma  
StateNorth Dakota State  
(25-6)  
FargoWisconsin  
(26-7)  
MadisonMilwaukee  
(21-13)Nebraska  
(19-12)  
LincolnIowa State  
(26-7)  
AmesCreighton  
(26-7)  
OmahaKansas State  
(20-12)  
ManhattanKansas  
(24-9)  
LawrenceSaint Louis  
(26-6)Tulsa  
(21-12)Wichita State  
(34-0)Oklahoma  
(23-9)  
NormanOklahoma State  
(21-12)  
StillwaterHeartland well represented  
in NCAA tournament fieldBy DAVE SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

**B**LAWRENCE, Kan. — Bill Self was born in Edmond, Okla. He played basketball at Oklahoma State, and cut his teeth in the coaching profession at Kansas. He built programs at Oral Roberts and Tulsa, and is now leading the Jayhawks in their pursuit of another national championship.

More than just about anybody, Self appreciates the rise of hoops in the heartland.

All three of the Sunflower State's programs are back in the NCAA tournament this year, and all are ninth seeds or better, led by No. 1 seed Wichita State (34-0). There are three schools from Oklahoma in the dance.

Two from Nebraska. Two more made it from Iowa, although the Iowa Hawkeyes are already gone. Saint Louis is in the field, too.

Not a bad showing from America's breadbasket, those sparsely populated "flyover states" that are supposed to be lean on talent and generate little buzz from folks on the coasts.

"Hopefully we'll pull for each other," Self said, "but it is interesting."

In some ways it makes sense. The epicenter of college basketball, many argue, resides in Lawrence at the school where James Naismith and Phog Allen were not only coaches but also the game's inventor and pioneer. The Jayhawks play home games in Allen Fieldhouse, of course, a bastion of basketball situated at the base of a hill on Naismith Drive.

SEE HEARTLAND ON PAGE 62

■ Kruger guiding  
Sooners to prominence

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